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CHARACTERS

HISTORICAL and PANEGYRICAL

Is OF THE *c Vellu*
GREATEST MEN

That have appear'd in

F R A N C E,

During the Last

C E N T U R Y.

By Monsieur *PERRAULT* of the
French Academy.

Now Render'd into *English*, by *J. OZELL.*

L O N D O N:

Printed for *Bernard Lintott* at the *Middle-
Temple-Gate* in *Fleetstreet*, 1704.

Price 3 s. 6 d.

ACT

TRUCK

TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE,
Robert Harley, Esq;
One of Her Majesty's Principal
Secretaries of State, &c,

S I R,
WHen I had made *Eng-*
lish the following Cha-
racters *Of Illustrious Men of*
France, as it was natural to ad-
dress it to some illustrious Man
in *England*, so no body was
more obvious than Mr. *Harley*.

A 2 I know

The Epistle Dedicatory.

I know it will be thought impertinent to present a Secretary of State (and particularly a Gentleman of Mr. *Harley's* universal Learning) with a Translation from the *French*, as if I should pretend to offer you, for a Curiosity, a *Slip* of some Plant, whereof you have the *Stock* in your own Garden.

Yet it is not without some Reason (besides a great deal of Ambition) that I have taken this Liberty.

Writers are very often perplex'd to find a conformity between the *Subject* of their *Books*, and the *Condition* of their *Patrons*; but it falls out happily for

The Epistle Dedicatory.

for me, that there is a Man in *England*, who not only has in *Epitome* all the great Qualities that are *dispers'd* among These illustrious Men of *France*, (and therefore worthy of being at their Head) but has also the advantage of being of a Family which has given to *France* a Succession of the Greatest Men *that* Kingdom boasts of.

That this is the Family of the *Harleys*, is no news to those who are acquainted with the History of *France*.

'Twould be as difficult to find the *Source* of this illustrious Blood, as the Head of *Nile* : Let it suffice, that the two most

A 3 potent

The Epistle Dedicatory.

potent Kingdoms in *Europe*
are blest with the *Current*
of it.

'Tis now above 600 Years
(when by a general Confederacy
of all the Princes of *Chri-*
stendom, the famous Enterprize
of the *Holy Land* was form'd)
a Branch of this Family, thro'
a motion of Piety, transported
it self from *England*, to serve
in those Wars, and afterwards
settled in *France*, where they
have been the Ornaments both
of Church and State ever since.
But you, Sir, by the Divine
Election, have the preference
of being Born in a Kingdom,
where Slavery and Superstition
are

The Epistle Dedicatory.

are banish'd out of doors. Thus if a like case of Consanguinity may be allow'd out of Scripture, *They*, like *Aaron*, are set apart to attend the Ceremonies of the Altar; but *You*, like *Moses*, enjoy the Light of God's Countenance: And this, not only in the true Knowledge and Worship of the true God, but in the admirable concert of so many Moral Virtues, and so much Political Knowledge, that it would be hard to say, whether it was more upon account of your great *Capacity*, or the Opinion they had of your *Probity*, that induced the Representatives of *England* to chuse you their Speaker in three succes-

The Epistle Dedicatory.

five Sessions. So that there wanted nothing to make the Acknowledgment of your Merit (in some sort) compleat, but the glorious Testimony Her Majesty has lately given of it, by making you Her Principal Secretary of State; such Panegyrics being capable of no addition, it would be vain to enter upon the *détail* of your natural and acquir'd Parts, your Publick-spiritedness, your Zeal for the Protestant Religion and Her Majesty's Service, and all the great Qualities that have so eminently distinguish'd your Person from the rest of Mankind, and particularly that Candour and Indulgence with which you receive

The Epistle Dedicatory.

ceive all People that have occasion to make their approaches to you, and to which I must fly for pardon of this Interruption, and the many Imperfections in the following Sheets, which might have been less faulty if they had been done by a Man who has but one thing to mind. The Book in general must be allow'd to be so far useful as it contains *The Private Circumstantial History of France*, discover'd in the most Shining Passages of the Lives of their Greatest Men during the last Century; which may also serve for Models, not unworthy to be imitated by their Neighbours,
except

The Epistle Dedicatory.

except in their Zeal for a false Faith, and an Arbitrary Government.

The Author, studious of his Country's Honour, has neglected no occasion of setting it in its full light; yet we cannot but have a good Opinion of his Veracity, if (for example) what he says of the *Harleys* in *France* be spoken with as much truth, as it may be apply'd to the *Harleys* in *England*. For which reason, I must beg leave to anticipate so much of my Author, as will enable any body to make the Parallel.

He says, *Achilles de Harley*,
President (or Speaker) in the
Par-

The Epistle Dedicatory.

Parliament of Paris, was born with all the Advantages which Nature can give to those she loves.

—— He had a Spirit lively, penetrating, and superior to all the Sciences which could be taught him; so that he was receiv'd into the Parliament at Twenty two Years of Age; and at Thirty six, made First President (or Speaker) where he exerted all the Virtues wherewith Heav'n had so liberally endow'd him ——— His Justice regular and exact, reviv'd that of the whole Body; and his incomparable Zeal for the Service of his Prince and of his Country, shone in an infinite Number of Occasions, which the
Mis-

The Epistle Dedicatory.

Misfortune and Difficulty of the Times gave Birth to ---- His Constancy not to be shaken --- He always abhorr'd the Extravagancies of those, who under the Veil of Religion violated the Respect and Obedience they owe to Royal Authority, against the expresse Command of that very Religion --- Apply'd himself strongly to establish the Laws, and cause Justice to flourish. --- Of another, a Peer of France, Archbishop of Paris, and of the same Family, he says, --- For his Great Qualities, the Admiration of all the Orders of the Kingdom. ----- Of the Grandson of the above-mentioned Achilles, (now living) he

The Epistle Dedicatory.

he says, ——— *At the Head of the Parliament, Heir to the Name and Virtues of his Great Family, inspir'd with the same Zeal for Justice, has freed it from all Chicanrys, and all Delays which are often as mischievous as Injustice it self; his perfect Integrity spreads it self throughout the whole Body, and the strict Discipline he causes to be observ'd, even amongst the least Officers of this Assembly, abolishes every thing that's burthensome and inconvenient in Prosecutions in Parliament, &c.*

By this we see that tho'
the Blood has been for many
Hundred

The Epistle Dedicatory.

**Hundred Years Disunited,
it has not Degenerated. Tho'
the Stream be multiply'd, yet
it has lost none of its Vir-
tue: Like the Sun always
in the Centre of his own
Glory, enriching the Extre-
mities of the Earth, without
empoverishing himself.**

I am, SIR,

More than I can express,

Your Devoted, Humble Servant,

John Ozell.

The AUTHOR'S P R E F A C E.

ALL Ages have afforded Great Men,
but all Ages have not been equally fruitful of them.

Nature, it seems, takes a pleasure from time to time, to shew her Power in the richness of the Talents she bestows on those she loves, and---then she pauses, as exhausted by the Greatness and Number of her Profusions,

*Altho' these Moments of Munificence are not limited, yet it has been observ'd, that this gracious Humour takes her ordinarily, when Heaven has resolv'd to give to the Earth some Great Prince, who is to be the Ornament of it; for, as if she thought herself obliged to adorn the Entry of this Heroe into the World, she sends before him, or with him, a crowd of Men of extraordinary Merit to receive him, and to be either the Instruments of his great Actions, or the Workmen of his Magnificence, or the Trumpets of his Glory. This hath manifestly appear'd in
the*

The Preface.

the Ages of Alexander and Augustus, which were no less wonderful for the Merit and Number of the great Personages they produc'd, than for the extraordinary Virtues of those two great Monarchs.

As the Age we live in, rich with the Goods of all the preceding, collected by right of Succession, and richer still in her own proper Fond, hath seen all the Sciences and all the Arts rais'd in a manner to their utmost perfection; it is not strange to see it so productive of great Men; having to do, besides, to make it worthy of the Reign of Louis the Great, for whom Heaven has form'd them, and to put some proportion between the Subjects and the Prince; so, tho' it was undertaken to extend this Collection of illustrious Men to an Hundred, it was more difficult not to exceed that number, than to fill it.

Hitherto Collections Commendatory of illustrious Men, have hardly been but of one kind of Men taken in a long Series of Ages. Paul Jovius confines his Elogies chiefly to Men of War; Sainte Marthe to Men of Letters; and Vafari has only writ the Lives of Painters and Gravers, the most famous of all Countries.

Here it has been a pleasure to assemble the extraordinary Men in all sorts of Professions, inclusive

The Preface.

*inclusive only of the * present Age. It was believ'd this diversity of Characters would not be unpleasant : Besides, the principal intention thereof being to do Honour to our Age, it was thought they ought not to be forgot, who have excell'd in the noble Arts, and whose Works have no less rais'd France above other States, than the Prodigies of Valour of our great Captains, than the consummate Wisdom of our great Politicians, and the wonderful discoveries made by our Men of Letters in all Sciences.*

* Note, This was writ in 98.

It cannot be said, that this blending of Men so different of Profession, does make a disagreeable mixture, they being chosen out as the first of their kind, and every thing that is first of that sort, it will always be delightful to know. It may even be advanc'd, that those who have thus distinguish'd themselves by the single force of their Genius, are more visibly the work of Heaven, than the rest of Mankind ; as Charles the Fifth testified to the Grandees of Spain, who murmur'd to see him pick up the Pencil of Titian. I can (says he) in a Moment, make twenty Men, all greater than you ; but there's none but God can make a Man like Titian.

The Preface.

In the choice of these Great Men, we follow'd no other Nomination, but the publick Voice, without giving the least share of it to Interest, Flattery, Hope or Fear.

We have put in no Men now living, and it is not difficult to guess the reason of it. Nor would we admit of any Foreigners, having only the Honour of France in view, we judg'd it also convenient to receive none but those who died since the beginning of this Age.

The simplicity of Stile in the following Pieces, may not (perhaps) please those who would see nothing in these sort of Works, but Panegyric ingeniously turn'd and deliver'd in a majestic manner. But tho' I were capable of doing them upon that Model, perhaps I should not have done it, persuaded, as I am, that by such a way there is no arriving so well at the End which one ought to propose to one's self in this kind of Writing, as in following that which I have chosen. For if it be true, that one ought to make it one's aim, to exhibit the true Character of him who is spoken of; it is no less true, that nothing is more proper to compass it, than the plain Narrative of his Actions, wherein the Man paints himself out better than the best Orator can do with the finest Colours of Eloquence.

I was

The Preface.

I was also of opinion, that a very strong Stile might at length fatigue the Reader, and that a simple recital of Historical Facts being more instructive, might also be more agreeable. I am not ignorant, that if I had apply'd the Sublime in these Elogiums, I should have receiv'd more Honour from 'em; but I only meant to Do Honour to those whereof I treat.

'Tis known, that the greatest part of Funeral Orations, wherein the highest Eloquence shines, are more the affair of the Preacher than the Deceas'd; and that if the Reputation of him who speaks receives from it often a considerable addition, That of him who is the Subject, remains almost still in the same condition it was in before the Ceremony. I have not therefore regarded my own Interest, unless perhaps that having advanced so high in several Particulars wherein our Age has carry'd it from all others, what I shall report of the Actions and Talents of the illustrious Men it hath produc'd, might serve to convince those who would still doubt of this Truth.

It were to be wish'd these Elogiums could have been plac'd according to the order of time, to authorize the Rank that's given 'em, but against that there offer'd insurmountable Difficulties. As it is almost impossible not to forget in this first Volume some illustrious

The Preface.

*Men who ought to appear there according to Chronological order ; so we were not willing to deprive our selves of the power of putting them into the second Volume, which could not have been done without violating the rule a Man had impos'd on himself. Moreover, this Order would have caus'd an odd Medly, by confounding Conditions and Qualities, and by placing sometimes a plain Artisan between a Cardinal and a great Prince. We have therefore only thought of separating a little the Conditions. In the first rank are put those who have appear'd with lustre in the Ecclesiastical State. In the second, those who have acquir'd most Glory in the profession of Arms. In the third, the Ministers of State, and the great Magistrates. In the fourth, the Men of Letters, distinguish'd, Philosophers, Historians, Orators and Poets. And in the fifth and last, those who have the most excell'd in the noble Arts. As to matter of Place which each holds in the Class he's in, there ought to be no attention to it ; they were put mostly as they presented themselves, and it was not in the least meant to give Priority to the First, any more than to him who comes Last. That's a right we were not minded to attribute to our self, and which is left entirely to the Reader ; who tho' a Master of never so great Lights, will
often*

The Preface.

often find it difficult to determine, because these illustrious Men, (almost all of 'em) surpass one another by the different Merit of their Talents.

It may be thought strange, that the Elo-
gies of Men of the highest Elevation have
no greater extent than those of Mechanics,
and that both the one and the other are com-
priz'd in the space of two or three Pages;
but it is to be consider'd, that there was a
necessity of giving one's self bounds, not to
engage in a Work which would have been im-
mense, if one was to have made the whole
History of their Life; and besides that in point
of ILLUSTRIOUS, Quality goes for nothing
when they are dead.

This Work is owing principally to the love
that * a Person of singular Merit hath for the Memo-
ry of all Great Men. If

* M. Begon, In-
tendant of Justice
and Marine.

there had been nothing more to be done,
but to celebrate the Memory of Great Men in
Arms or Letters, I should have thought it
belong'd not to me, to undertake a Task where-
of there are Men enough who would better have
acquitted themselves: But as the business
in hand is also to speak of those who have
excell'd in all the Curious Arts, little known
by the greatest part of those who are common-
ly call'd Learned, I thought upon that score
I should

The Preface.

I should be excusable for embarking in such an Enterprize, as knowing a little better these Matters, than a great many excellent Orators, who often commit great Incongruities when they speak of 'em, and almost always in proportion to their Eloquence and their great Ability in other things.

If the first thought of this Work gave me pleasure, I own that during its prosecution, I have almost always trembled. I saw that what would pass only for a simple Negligence in any other Book, would be a capital Fault in this, wherein the least Error in Fact, the omission of a Circumstance a little considerable, and even a Misnommer, is capable of attracting Reproaches very well grounded. I am therefore far from promising my self that universal Approbation which no body hath ever yet obtain'd : I expect, on the contrary, to be blam'd on all sides. Those who take an Interest in the Men I characterize, will find they are not sufficiently prais'd, nor according to the Idea they have conceiv'd of 'em ; and those who will not find in this Volume the Great Personages whom they love and revere, will not see, without Indignation, only part of those that are there, whatever promise be made to give 'em satisfaction in the Volume that is to follow.

With

The Preface.

With regard to the Public, as Commendations are not what they love the most of any thing in the World ; and as those I give are very short of that fine and delicate turn which might make 'em please, I am disposed to take as a Favour, the least good Reception the World shall please to give to what is mine in this Work.

ERRATA.

Page 45. Line 12. instead of *Words*, read *Works*. Page 182.
line 4. instead of *Applications were made about it*, read
Applications of it were made, &c. Page 91. line 29. read *Ships*
for *Vessels*.

Illustrious

T A B L E.

C <i>Arduinal Richelieu</i>	Page i
<i>Cardinal Berulle</i>	6
<i>Henry de Sponde, Bishop of Pamiers</i>	11
<i>Peter de Marca, Archbishop of Paris</i>	15
<i>Peter Camus, Bishop of Belley</i>	20
<i>Anth. Godeau, Bishop of Vence</i>	24
<i>Father Senault</i>	28
<i>Anth. Arnauld, Dr. of Sorbonne</i>	33
<i>James Sirmond, Jesuit</i>	38
<i>Denys Petan, Jesuit</i>	42
<i>John Morin, Priest of the Oratory</i>	47
<i>Prince of Conde</i>	52
<i>Viscount Turenne</i>	56
<i>Count de Pagan</i>	61
<i>Peter Segnier, Chancellor</i>	66
<i>Louis Thomassin, Priest of the Oratory</i>	71
*	<i>Will.</i>

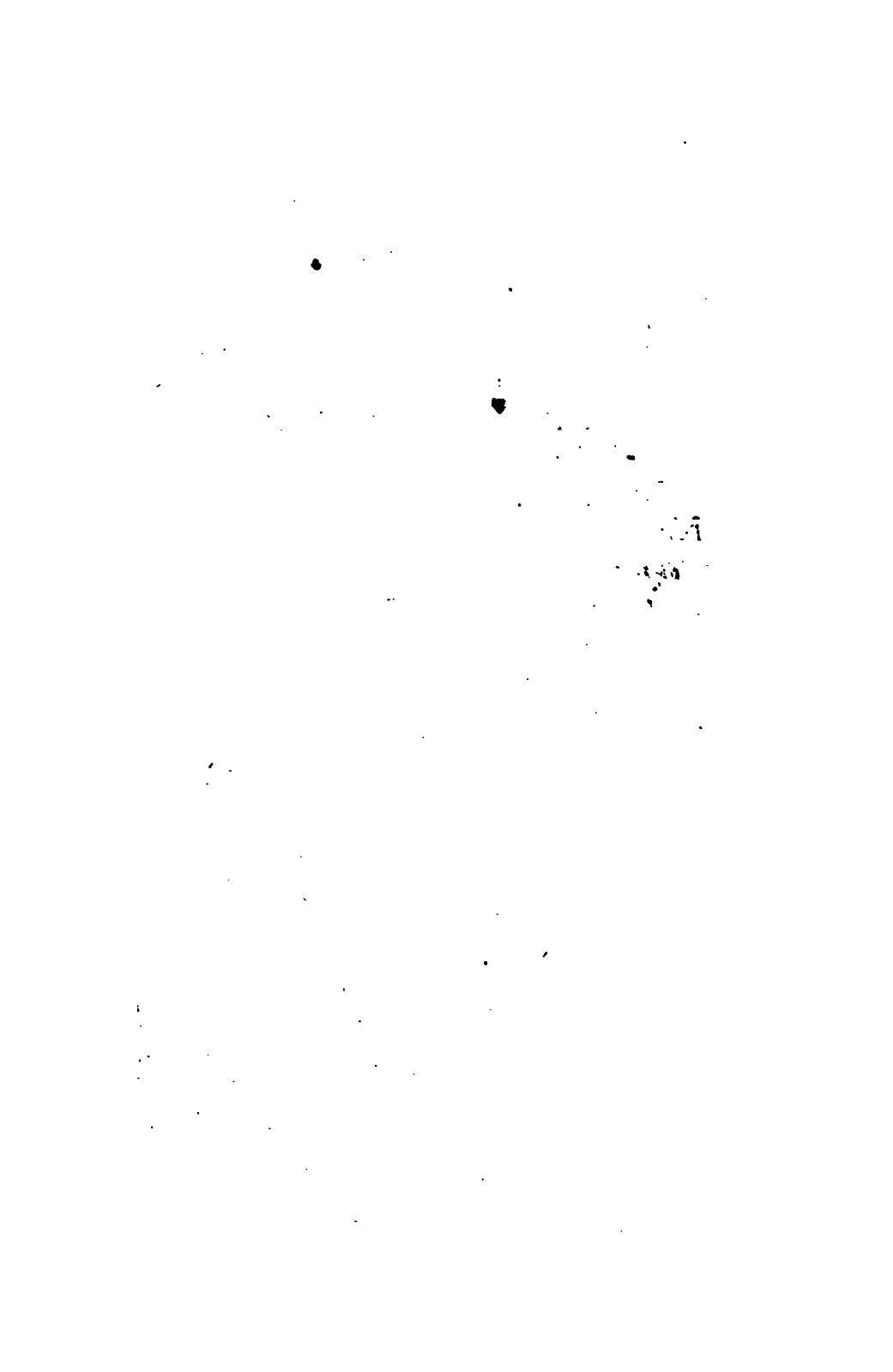
T A B L E.

<i>Will. du Vair</i> , Keeper of the Seals	76
President <i>Jeannin</i>	80
<i>Paul Phelypeaux</i> , Secretary of State	85
Monsieur <i>Colbert</i>	89
President <i>Lamoignon</i>	94
President <i>de Thou</i>	98
<i>Jerom Bignon</i> , Advocate General	102
<i>Fabri de Pieresc</i>	105
<i>Papierre Masson</i>	109
<i>Sainte Marthe</i>	113
Monsieur <i>Pellisson</i>	118
<i>Peter de Puy</i>	123
<i>Robert Arnauld</i> , Lord of <i>Andilly</i>	127
<i>Amb. Rossignol</i> , Master of Accounts	131
<i>Descartes</i>	135
<i>Le Maître</i> , Advocat	140
<i>Gassendi</i>	144
<i>Du Fresne</i> , <i>Sieur du Cange</i> , a great Historian	148
Mons. <i>Perrault</i> , Architect, &c.	152
<i>Malherbe</i> , Poet	158
<i>Balzac</i> , Orator	162
<i>Voiture</i>	

Great Sen-
dents, and
eminent Au-
thors.

T A B L E.

<i>Voiture</i>	166	} Beaux-Esprits
<i>Sarrafin</i>	171	
<i>Corneille</i>		175
<i>Moliere</i>		179
<i>Quinault</i> , Poet		184
<i>Fontaine</i> , Poet		188
<i>John-Baptiste Lully</i> , Master of the King's Music		192
<i>Mansart</i> , Architect		196
<i>Poussin</i>	201	} Painters
<i>Le Brun</i>	205	
<i>Le Sueur</i>	210	
<i>Pascal</i> , Mathematician		214
<i>Achilles de Harlay</i> , First President in the Parliament of <i>Paris</i> .		219



I

Illustrious M E N
O F
FRANCE,
During the Last
CENTURY.

ARMAND JOHN
du PLESSIS,
Cardinal Duke of *Richelieu.*

ARMAND *John du Plessis* Son of
François du Plessis, Lord of *Richelieu*,
Knight of the King's Orders, Steward
of the Household, &c. was born
in the Castle of *Richelieu* the 5. of *September*
1585. He shew'd so much vivacity of Wit
and solidity of Judgment in his Studies, that
his future Grandeur was very early presaged.

B

It

2 *Illustrious Men of France,*

It should seem he himself had a pre-sentiment of it, being heard to say several times to those of his own Age, when they prest him to joy with them in the Sports of Youth, that he was destin'd for Business which would not permit him to lose his time. He was so careful to employ it to good purpose, that at 22 Years of Age, he was consecrated Bishop of *Luce* by his Merit, his Learning, and Reputation supplying his want of Years. The Ceremony of his Consecration was perform'd at *Rome*, by Cardinal *Givri*, in the midst of the Applauses of the whole sacred College and City.

Returning into *France* he apply'd himself to Preaching, wherein he excell'd after such a manner that the Queen would have him for Her Great Almoner. His Ability in the management of Business which he made appear on several important Occasions got him the Place of Secretary of State; and as his extraordinary Talents would not let him be in any post without particular distinction, the King gave him the Precedence of the other three Secretaries. The Death of the Marshal *d'Ancre* having wrought a great alteration in Affairs, he retir'd to *Avignon* to enjoy that Repose which he cou'd not find at Court in that conjuncture. There he set himself to compose divers Books of Controversy, so convincing, that they have been no less fatal to Heresie than were his Counsels, all supported as they were by the victorious Arms of his Master.

He made at the same time excellent Books of Piety for the Edification of the Church, and wherein there's nothing wanting to arrive at the highest point of Christian Perfection. He was
made

during the Last Century. 3

made Cardinal the 15. of *September* 1622. Some time after the King declar'd him his first Minister, and then great Master of the Navigation, suppressing the Place of Admiral.

Seeing himself at the head of Affairs; he proposed two things principally, to pull down the Hereticks And humble the House of *Austria*. For the one, he induced the King to undertake the Siege of *Rochelle*, which was attacking Heresie in it's Strength, in the very Place where she thought herself unsurmountable. This Place was defended by the Sea, by a strong Garrison, and by its Inhabitants, to whom the Zeal of their Religion gave Strength and Courage, which seem'd invincible. *England* furnish'd them with continual Succours of Men and Provisions, and there appear'd a great deal of Temerity in the Siege of that Place. However, Cardinal *Richelieu*, to whom the greatness and difficulty of Enterprizes was encouraging, found means to reduce it under the Power of its lawful Prince. It may be said in some sort that he conquer'd the Main, by curbing it with a Dike that made it impossible to convey any Relief to the Besieged. An Enterprize which for its hardness might well seem fabulous, did not the events of the Age we live in make every thing credible. This City surrendring, the Hugonots were constrain'd to accept of the Conditions which it pleas'd the King to prescribe 'em; and this unhappy Heresie which for three-score Years and ten had caus'd infinite Mischief's to *France* would have been then entirely extirpated, had not Heaven preserv'd this Miracle for the Wisdom of *Louis* the Great.

4 *Illustrious Men of France,*

Notwithstanding these Services, Envy and Imposture rais'd themselves so cruelly against him, that the King took a resolution of removing him from the government of his Affairs. But, the same Day, he went to wait upon his Majesty, and forcing as it were, the Avenues that were all block'd up against him by his Enemies, he knew so well how to justify himself by his Eloquence, and especially by that force of Genius which never met with any thing that resisted it, that he re-enter'd farther than ever, into the good Graces and Confidence of his Master. It was observ'd that all those who had conspired his Ruine, suffer'd in the Sequel, the same Mischiefs to which they had condemn'd him.

To moderate the Power of the House of *Austria*, he had the Skill to engage the great *Gustavus* King of *Sweden* in the Interests of *France*, and thereby put the Empire within a Finger's breadth of Destruction. He then caus'd *Catalonia* and *Portugal* to rise, which took up all the Force of *Spain*, and thereby confining her care to her own preservation, superseded her vast Thoughts of universal Monarchy.

Fortune, 'tis true, did not favour all his great Designs. The Death of the King of *Sweden*, and the loss of the Battel of *Norlingen*, having rais'd the Courage and Forces of the Enemy, even to the Besieging of *Corbia*; He had a great deal to suffer from those that envy'd him and flung upon him all those ill Successes; but his Virtue never appear'd more than in those difficult times, which shew'd the constancy of his Courage. He pass'd through *Paris* several times alone and without Guards in the midst of the Populace, animated

animated against him by his Enemies; and he appear'd then greater in the Eyes of those who can make a sound Judgement of things, than when he return'd from taking *Susa* and *Pignerol*. His continual application to Affairs of the State lessen'd not his care for those of the Church. He had an extream attention in giving Her excellent Ministers. There was none of a Reputation for solid Piety, and that taught with an Eloquence truly Christian, but was presently dignify'd. He rebuilt all the House of *Sorbonne* whereof he was Doctor and Patron, and added a Church to it, which is a Master-piece of Architecture. * Where he is interr'd under a Tomb of white Marble very magnificent, made by the Hand of the illustrious *Girardon*.

He was the Founder of the *French Academy*, and the first of her Protectors. Nothing was ever better thought of by a Man who did so great things, than the establishment of a Company whose principal Employment is to consecrate to immortality the Virtues and glorious Actions of great Men.

He dy'd at *Paris* the 4. of *December* 1642. Aged 57 Years 3 Months. He had an Air affable and Majestic together, a Manner honourable and engaging, Wit lively, Judgment solid, Ideas great, a Courage capable of undertaking any thing; and Proof against all sorts of Misfortunes. If it be true that every Man who has an extraordinary Merit honours his Country even tho' he never had the thought of it; what Honour has not this great Man done to *France*, he who had no other view but the Glory of his Prince and Country?

PETER de BERULLE Cardinal.

PETER *de Berulle* was born the 4. of February 1575. His Father *Claudius de Berulle* of an illustrious Family in *Champagne* and Councillor in Parliament, was a Judge, of singular probity; and his Mother *Louisa Segurier* descended of a House which has given a considerable number of great *Magistrates* to the Kingdom, and great *Prelates* to the Church, was a Woman exemplary for Piety and Virtue. She became *Carmelite* Nun from the first Years of her Widowhood, and having lived to the Age of 78 Years in the Austerities of Religion, she expired in the Arms of her Son, who administered all the Sacraments to her. It is no wonder that of 2 Families so Virtuous, there was born a Son so perfect and holy as the Person we are speaking of.

At 18 Years of Age, he compos'd a Treatise of *Self-Denial*, of a very great Elevation, and which tasted not at all of the Weakness of his Age. His first Thoughts were for a monastic Life; but God had upon him other designs. One of his greatest Applications was the Conversion of Hereticks, for which he had a singular Talent.

One Day as he was disputing against a President of the Parliament of *Pau*, Monsieur *du Val*,
a cele-

A celebrated Doctor and Professor in Divinity hearing him speak, declared that *Berulle* was his Master in that point; and some Days after, he converted the young Count *de Laval* in presence of the learned *Tilenus* his Preceptor and Minister. No body ever had a greater indifference for Dignities and for Honours. However able a Divine he was, he would never make publick Harangues nor take Degrees. He refused to be a Bishop at three several times; the first time was when the King himself press'd him to it very strenuously; which when *Berulle* refus'd, the King said he would cause him to be commanded by a greater than him, (meaning the Pope.) Whereupon he had the boldness to answer, that if his Majesty urg'd him any more he would go out of the Kingdom. He refus'd afterwards the Bishoprick of *Laon*, which Monsieur *Seguier* his Uncle would have given him; and since, that of *Nantes* offer'd him by Monsieur *de Cusse*, first President of the Parliament of *Bretagne*. Neither wou'd he have the Abby of *St. Stephen* of *Cuen*, which Monsieur *d'O* his Relation prayed him to accept. He never went to Court without being sent for, so that the King lamented several times that he did not see him.

The Place of *Preceptor* to the *Dauphin* being offer'd him he would never accept it, altho' Father *Coton* then the King's Confessor solicited him by all sorts of Reasons, and even on the score of Conscience, by representing to him that the Interest of Church and State was concern'd in it, and that the Benefit he might do to an Order whereof he had the direction, (he meant the *Carthusians*) was not to be consider'd in comparison

8 *Illustrious Men of France,*

son of that which he would do to a whole Kingdom, informing to Piety him that was one *Dau* to govern it. God reserv'd him for the repair of Piety in the same Kingdom by other ways, and particularly by the establishment of the Congregation of Fathers of the Oratory, which he undertook at that time. He was in pain what Head he should give to so holy an Assembly, and not judging himself worthy of such an employ, he address'd himself to *Francis de Sales* his intimate Friend, who excus'd himself for that he was design'd Bishop of *Geneva*, and because that he judg'd no body was more worthy or capable of it than *Monfieur de Berulle*. There was a necessity that *Monfieur de Rets* his Diocesan, and since Cardinal, shou'd absolutely command him to establish this Congregation, and to be the Head of it. At first it was compos'd but of five Priests and *Monfieur Berulle* who made the sixth. They lodg'd in the Suburbs of *St. James* in a hired House named the *Little Bourbon*, situate in the place where at present is *le-Val-de-Grace*, as if the Place which had been inhabited by Men of so extraordinary Piety cou'd not continue to be any thing else but the abode of a holy Community.

From *Fauxbourg St. Jaques* they pass'd to the *Hotel de Bouchage*, and there he caus'd to be built, or rather, he built himself a Chapel, for he workt at it with his own Hands, and even carry'd Hods of Mortar as a Labourer so much Zeal had he for the House of the Lord, and Humility altogether. But this Chapel becoming every Day narrower by the number of Priests who joyn'd with him, and by the concurrence of People whose Devotion carry'd them thither, he

He resolv'd to build a Church of a just extent. He met with so many Difficulties in it, that the King was fain to order it by his absolute Authority, declaring that this Church should serve as the Palace Chapel of the *Louvre*. He was already Director and as it were the Founder of the *Carmelites*, whom he had been to search for in *Spain*, and whom he had brought to *Paris* to establish there this holy Order of religious Women, and the true Spirit of their Institution, not effecting it without great difficulties, which he knew to vanquish by his Piety and Perseverance. The Marriage of *Henrietta Maria* of *France* with the King of *England* being resolv'd on, the King oblig'd Monsieur *de Berulle* to go to *Rome* for a Dispensation from the Pope because of the difference of Religion. In this Embassy he behav'd himself so well, and got the Esteem of his Holyness after such a manner, that one Day his Holyness said, *The Father de Berulle is not a Man but an Angel*. He charg'd him with all Affairs he had in *France*, with order to his Nuncios to follow his Advice in all things. And still to give greater Marks of his Esteem, he order'd that upon his arrival in *France* he should find a Cardinal's Hat there. But because Monsieur *de Berulle* had made a Vow not to receive any Dignity, the Pope sent him a Dispensation for his Vow, and an order to accept of the Hat he had sent him. He carry'd the Princess *Henrietta Maria* from *France* into *England*, where he won the Love and veneration of all People. He was no less honour'd in his own Country, and we are assur'd that one thing wick determin'd the King and Council most to the Siege of *Rochelle*, was a revelation the Cardinal had, that the undertaking

10 *Illustrious Men of France,*

king wou'd be happy, and that the Hour was coming when the true Religion should reign there. He dyed the 2. of *October* 1629. in his 55th Year, but in a manner the finest and most desirable for a holy Priest, it was in celebrating the Mass, and upon the point of Consecration in pronouncing these Words:—*Hanc igitur Oblationem*. So that not being able to compleat the Sacrifice as *Priest*, he perform'd it as *Victim*; which is express'd by this Distich,

*Capta sub extremis nequeo dum Sacra Sacerdos
Perficere, at saltem victima perficiam.*

It was in the Church of the Fathers of the Oratory, in the Street of St. *Honorius* he expir'd and was bury'd.

HENRY

HENRY de SPONDE, Bishop of Pamiers.

HENRY *de Sponde* was born at *Mauleon* in *Bearn*, the 6. of *January* 1568. And had the Honour of having for Godfather *Henry de Bourbon*, who was afterwards *Henry the Great*.

His Father was Secretary to *Joan de Albert* Queen of *Navarre*, and made Profession of the pretended reformed Religion, as did the most part of *Bearnois* at that time. Assoon as the young *Sponde* had finish'd his Studies and his Philosophy, which he did in Greek, he left *France* to go travel. He followed into *England*, *William Salust du Bartas*, so famous for his Poem of the Creation of the World, and then the King of *Navarre's* Ambassador, where in a little time he learnt the Language of the Country, and had familiar Conferences with King *James*. He waited also at *London* upon Queen *Elizabeth*. A Queen of an extraordinary Merit, and much above her Sex, who shew'd she made great account of his Parts.

Returning from his Travels he apply'd himself to the Study of the Civil and Canon Laws, whereof he read almost all the Books. He went to *Tour*, whither the Parliament of *Paris* was transfer'd, and where his Learning and Eloquence at the Bar, induced *Henry the 4th* to make

12 *Illustrions Men of France,*

make him Master of Requefts. In the midft of Bufinefs which took him up, he found time to read the Books of Controverfies which the Cardinals *Bellarmin* and *Perron* were then making. Thefe Books gave him fuch an infight into the Errors wherein the Misfortunnes of the times had engaged him with all his Family, that a little time after he abjur'd his Herefie. He went then to *Rome* with Cardinal *Sourdis*, where after fome Years abode he took the Order of Priesthood. He contracted a ftrict Friendfhip with Cardinal *Baronius*, and with his confent made an Epitome of the 12 firft Tomes of his Annals. Being return'd into *France*, Cardinal *Baronius* writ to him that he was very well fatisfy'd with his Work; tho' Authors feldom love their Works fhould be abridg'd, becaufe it happens very often that thefe Abridgements have funk the Books whereof they comprize the Subftance. This Epitome was compleatly Printed in 1612, and dedicated to the Church of *France*, who approv'd it, and fhew'd the Esteem they had of it, by feveral confiderable Gratifications with which they honoured its Author. There have been feveral Editions of it, and it hath been tranflated into feveral Languages. He had a particular Knowledge of the Affairs of the Court of *Rome*, and Pope *Paul V.* who lov'd him much, propos'd him for the Revifing the Orders of the Tribunal of the Penitentiary. He was very much valued by the King of *France*, by all Ambafadors and all thofe of the Confiftory. So that at the time he had abfolutely renounced returning to *Paris*, and had fettled himfelf at *Rome*, he was nominated without any thoughts of his own, by the King (*Louis the 13th*) to the Bifhoprick

during the Last Century. 13

hoprick of *Pamiers* in the beginning of the Year 1626. As he made a difficulty of taking charge of so great a Burthen; the Pope oblig'd him to it by his Authority. He was then 59 Years old, and was consecrated at *Rome* by Cardinal *Marquemont* Arch Bishop of *Lyon*, assisted by *Attilius Amalteus* Bishop of *Athens*, and *Anthony Provana* Arch Bishop of *Dyrrachium* in the presence of 24 Cardinals in the Church of *St. Louis*, on Sunday 17 September.

He came to *Paris*, where the King receiv'd him with very particular Marks of Esteem. From thence he repair'd to *Pamiers*, where he made his Entry the 23 of *May* 1627. He pacified the differences that were among the Monks of the Order of *St. Francis* call'd *De l'Observance de la Province d'Aquitaine*, having been delegated by the Pope for that Affair. The Duke of *Rohan*, Head of the Hereticks, entered into *Pamiers* by Treason. The Bishop saved himself thro' a hole made in the Wall. The Year following the Prince of *Conde* having retaken the Town, and the Hereticks being drove out, except those who turn'd, Pope *Urban VIII.* wrote to him Letters of Congratulation, expressing an extraordinary value for his Merit. He made frequent Visits in his Diocese, where he restored Discipline, and reduced to the Faith above 1300 Hereticks. He establish'd Conferences in his Episcopal Palace, which he built with a great deal of Expence. Afterwards being very aged, and having made his Nephew his Coadjutor, he return'd to *Paris* to give himself up entirely to the Edition of his Annals. Which the Pope approved of with great Encomiums. The first Tome of his Annals comprehends what pass'd from the
Creation

14 *Illustrious Men of France,*

Creation of the World to the coming of Jesus Christ, and may be consider'd as an Abridgement of those of *Torniel*. The second and third Tomes, which contain from the Birth of Jesus Christ, to the Pontificate of *Innocent III.* are an Abridgement of *Baronius*. And the three Volumes that follow are all his own, and come to the Year 1640. A Work which has not its like for its Extent, which is no less than that of all the Ages. He dy'd at *Toulouse* the 18 of *May* 1643. And was bury'd in the Church of *St. Stephen*. He left his Library to the Minims of *Toulouse*.

PETER

PETER de MARCA, Arch-Bishop of *Paris*.

P*ETER de Marca* Arch-Bishop of *Paris* was born in the City of *Gant* near that of *Pau*, the Capital of *Bearn*, of noble Parents, and who carry up their Genealogie to the eleventh Age; when one *Garcias de Marca*, Captain of Horse, did great Services to *Gaston* Prince of *Bearn*. There began to be Men of the Robe in this Family in the Year 1444. And he of whom we are speaking was born in the Year 1594. The Hugonots being at that time Masters in *Bearn*, and the Curates scarce performing any part of their Function, his Father to have the consolation of seeing his Son baptiz'd in the Bosom of the Catholic Church, had him carry'd to the Monastery of *St. Pé de Generès* in the Diocese of *Tarbe*, where he receiv'd Baptism from the Hands of a Monk of that House, who thro' a Prophetic Spirit said these Words after he had Baptis'd him: *Tu es Petrus, &c. Thou art Peter, and upon this Rock will I build my Church.* The sequel hath justified the happy application of these Words. For as soon as he had done his Studies, as well of Humanity and Philosophy, as the Civil and Canon Law, his principal Occupation was to dispute against the Hugonots and to convert them; which he continu'd to do even tho' he was married, and when

16 *Illustrious Men of France,*

when his domestic Affairs ought (one would have thought) to have taken him off from such an employ. He marry'd (being very young,) *Margarita de Farques*; descended of the ancient Viscounts *de Lavedan* in *Bigorre*, whom he lost after some Years Marriage. At that time the King having undertaken to re-establish the *Ecclesiastics* in the possession of all their Estates, whereof the Hugonots were seized, and this Affair meeting with great Difficulties, the young *Marca* (assisted by his Father) seconded so happily his Majesty's Intentions, that it concluded with the entire restitution of all the Goods belonging to the Catholics. The King erected at that time the Sovereign Council of *Bearn* into a Parliament, and freely gave him the Office of President *au Mortier*, which he exercis'd with all the Capacity and all the Integrity might be expected from a Man of his Merit. In the Year 1639, the King having lost a Trial in his Council of State, and believing he had not Justice done him, complain'd thereof to Chancellor *Seguier* in Presence of Cardinal *Richelieu*, and order'd him to choose two Men of Learning and Piety to place them in his Council. At that time Monsieur *de Marca* was at *Paris* upon Affairs of the Parliament of *Pau*, and had made himself known to the Chancellor, who believ'd him in some sort sent from Heaven to fill up one of the Places of Counsellor of State which he had to give him. 'Twas then he published the History of *Bearne*, and of the Country adjacent, a very curious Book and full of excellent Inquiries, which he dedicated to the Chancellor, in acknowledgment of the Obligations he was under to him. There appear'd (a short time after) a Book intitled,

Optatum

Optatus Gallus de Cavendo Schismate, which warn'd the Bishops of a Schism ready to be hatch'd, insinuating as if Cardinal *Richelieu* was about inducing the King to establish a Patriarch in *France*, and it was added that the Cardinal himself was to be this Patriarch. Against this Book, *Monfieur de Marca* compos'd that, *De Concordia Sacerdotii & Imperii*. He endeavour'd to reconcile the two Powers which divide the World, the Priesthood, and the Empire, naturally jealous of one another, and to mark out precisely their just bounds. The Part which *Monfieur de Marca* took, was, not to interpose his Judgment upon an Affair of that consequence, but to report Historically every thing that had pass'd in the Controversies which have been between these two Powers; every thing that had been resolv'd in the Succession of time upon their Prerogatives; but with so much order and perspicuity, that there does result upon each Head of the Contest, such Resolutions so clear, as if he had declar'd himself in terms the most decisive in the World. It was found he had rendred to the Pope, all the Honours and all the Prerogatives which were his due, so that more cou'd not have been expected from the most passionate, but reasonable among the *Italians*; and at the same time he had preserv'd the Liberties of the Church of *France*, and every thing that is due to the Authority and Majesty of our Kings, as much as could have been done by a Heart the most *French* and the most Affectionate to his Country. The Favours with which he was loaded afterwards, both on the part of *Rome* and the King, will be everlasting Testimonies of the unanimous Satisfaction of both these Powers.

**JOHN PETER
CAMUS,
Bishop of BELLEY.**

J O H N Peter Camus was nominated to the Bishoprick of *Belley* by *Henry IV.* in the Year 1609, and was Consecrated the 30th of *December*, in the same Year, by *St. Francis de Sales*. He was a true Bishop, consider him in what respect you will, whether for his Learning, especially in Ecclesiastical Matters, or for his Zeal in his Instructing and Conversion of Souls, giving all his time, which the care of his Diocese could permit him, either in composing Books for the Edification of the Faithful, or in preaching with a Fervency and a Charity which attracted and made impressions upon all People. His Zeal kindled it self particularly against the Slothfulness and decay'd Morals of some Monks of his time; and he never ceas'd declaiming against 'em, both by Word of Mouth, and by Books almost without number. Cardinal *de Richelieu* being teaz'd and persecuted by these Monks, to oblige this good Bishop neither to Preach or Write any more against 'em, got his Word of him, that for the future he would let 'em alone, at the same time saying, *I find no other fault in you, but this horrible Eiterness against the Monks;*

during the Last Century. 21

Monks; and were it not for that, I would Canonize you. Monsieur de Belley, whose great Piety hinder'd him not from being agreeable in his Repartees, answered, *Would to God, my Lord, that would come to pass, we should both have our wish, you would be Pope, and I a Saint.*

He wrote with an incredible Facility, and the number of Books he hath compos'd, is amazing. His Stile, tho' none of the most correct, pleas'd at that time, and People were in love with the Boldness of his Metaphors, (altho' a little heap'd up upon one another) because of the agreeable multitude of the Images they form, and the great number of things they teach at once.

About that time Romances became very much the Mode; beginning with that of *Astrea*, whereof the Beauty was the Delight and Folly of all *France*, and even of foreign Countries the most remote.

The Bishop of *Belley* having consider'd that this sort of Reading was very contrary to the Spirit of Christianity, and filling the Mind with Sentiments of prophane Love, it obstructed the progress of the love of God in the Soul; but having consider'd at the same time, that it was, as it were, impossible to turn young People from an Amusement so agreeable and so conformable to the Inclinations of their Age; he sought after the means of making a diversion, by contriving Histories, wherein was Love, and for that reason were read, but which rais'd insensibly the Heart to God, by Sentiments of Piety which he dexterously inserted, and by the Christian Catastrophes of all their Adventures: For always one or other of the Lovers, or both together, having reflected upon the *Nothingness* of the

22 *Illustrious Men of France,*

things of the World, the Malice of Men, the Peril one runs perpetually of one's Salvation, by walking in the Ways of the World, took a resolution of giving themselves entirely to God, by renouncing all things, and embracing a religious Life.

This was a happy Artifice, which his ardent Charity, that made him *all things to all Men*, suggested to him, and set at work; for his Books pass'd through the Hands of the whole World, and abounding not only with Incidents very agreeable, but with good Maxims very useful for the conduct of Life; they produc'd very considerable Fruit, and were as a sort of Antidote to the reading of Romances.

There remain several Letters that he writ to St. Francis de Sales, and many which the said Saint wrote to him; wherein are seen, on both sides, marks of a Piety worthy of the first Ages of the Church. In the Year 1620, he establish'd in the City of Belley, a Convent of Capucins; and in the Year 1622, he establish'd (there) one for the Nuns of the Visitation, instituted by St. Francis de Sales. He resign'd his Bishoprick in the Year 1625, in favour of John de Passelaigue, who succeeded, and contented himself with the Abby of Clunay in Normandy, of the Order of Cisteaux, where he retir'd to labour more strongly upon his own Sanctification. But the Archbishop of Rouen, Francis de Harlay, was not able to see him uselefs to the Church, and (knowing his Talents) made him his Associate in his Episcopal Cares, constituting him his great Vicar. He acquitted himself of all his Devoirs, with a Vigilance truly Pastoral, and not at all degenerating from that with which he had tended his

during the Last Century. 23

his own Flock: But, as Promotion and the greatest Dignities never had Charms for him, and that he always lov'd the Poverty wherein *Jesus Christ* liv'd, and which he hath honour'd with so many Commendations, he came to settle his Abode in the Hospital of the poor Incurables of the *faux-bourgb Saint Germain* at *Paris*, to die there with 'em, which good fortune (for we ought to speak so of the death of so holy a Bishop) happen'd to him the 26th of *Apr.* 1652, in the 70th Year of his Age; and he desir'd to be Interr'd in the same place. He was one of the most worthy Bishops *France* ever had, and whose Zeal to inspire the true love of God never had its like. A little before his death, he was nominated, by the King, to the Bishoprick of *Arras*.

ANTH. GODEAU, Bishop of *Vence*.

ANTHONY Godeau, descended of one of the best Families of *Dreux*, gave marks of the beauty of his Mind in the first Years of his Life. His Genius carry'd him at first to the cultivating *French* Poetry, where he made himself admir'd for the original and natural Charms whereof his Works were full. The birth of the *French* Academy is in some measure owing to him, whereof he was one of the most worthy Members, not only as being one of those who first assembled at Monsieur *Conrart*'s, to confer there of their Studies, and to read the Pieces of their composition; but because that the fineness of his Poems, which pleas'd Cardinal *Richelieu* extremely, contributed very much to help forward that great Minister's resolution of establishing that Company.

He compos'd, among other things, a Paraphrase of the *Cantique*, *Benedicite omnia opera Domini Domino*, where all the Creatures are invited to praise the Lord. This Work is so singular for its Majestick Beauty of *Description*, or rather of the *Definitions* of all the Beings of Nature, that one cannot read it without being seiz'd with admiration, upon so many noble and happy Expressions. The regard which this Poem

Poem drew upon the Merit of the Author, caus'd to be discover'd in him a great number of other good Qualities, each of which yielded not in the least to his Poetry, for the degree of Excellence wherein he possess'd 'em. His Eloquence, which appear'd to the heighth in the Pulpit, and the solid Piety which shone in all his Actions, induc'd the same Cardinal *Richelieu*, to propose him to the King for the Bishoprick of *Grasse*; wherein this great Minister follow'd the natural inclination he had to reward Merit, and above all, to give to the Church, Ministers worthy of their Ministry. In 1636, he was nominated to this Bishoprick, and was Consecrated at *St. Magloire* in the Month of *December*, of the same Year, by the Bishops of *Chartres*, *Dardanie*, and *S. Papoul*. As soon as he was in his Bishoprick, he preach'd there with an Eloquence wholly Christian, which made him admir'd and belov'd by all People; and he held there several Synods, where he re-establish'd the Discipline which was grown remiss in several places of his Diocese. He re-united to the Bishoprick of *Grasse*, by virtue of a Right of Patronage, the Town of *Antibes*, which from the time that the Episcopal Seat of *Vence* was transferr'd to *Grasse*, had not been of any Diocese; and by this means he reviv'd there the Ecclesiastical Discipline, whereof remain'd not any Footstep.

Pope *Innocent X.* granted him Bulls to reunite in his favour, the Bishopricks of *Vence*, and of *Grasse*, as *Clement VIII.* had done at the request of his Predecessor. However, perceiving that the Clergy and People of *Vence* did not consent to it with a willing Mind, he chose rather,

26 *Illustrious Men of France,*

rather, although the two Bishopricks were not worth 10000 Livres Revenue, and together not 30 Parishes, and the Cities of *Vence* and *Grasse*, not above three Leagues, at most, from one another; Reasons very strong to authorize the reunion; he rather chose (I say) to yield up the Interest he had there, and content himself with the Bishoprick of *Vence*, than not to be agreeable to some of his Diocesans, and especially to have Suits at Law, a thing not less contrary to his own Nature and Piety, than the peaceable Functions of a holy Pastor.

His whole Life was spent, either in visiting his Diocese, or in Preaching, or in Reading, or in Writing; and if one would examine so many different Occupations, 'twould be difficult to comprehend whence he took time to satisfy 'em all.

His principal Works are, *An Ecclesiastical History* in three Vol. whereof the Style, whether for the Elegance, whether for the Purity, hath but few equal to it, and makes the reading of it as agreeable, as 'tis useful. *Paraphrases of the Epistles of St. Paul*; where, with a few Words, (which he adds, to serve for Ties and Transitions) he discovers clearly the whole Oeconomy, which in the Text often escapes the most Skilful and most Attentive. And lastly, his *Christian Eclogues*, most of 'em after the Model and Spirit of the *Canticum Canticorum*, filling the Heart with holy Joy, and kindling in it Flames of divine Love. Yet notwithstanding the great Reputation which these *Eclogues* have had, his *Paraphrases of all the Psalms of David*, and several Christian Poems that he hath compos'd, there is found a Man rash enough to maintain, that Monsieur

during the Last Century. 27

sieur Godeau had no nature for Poetry, and to print a Book with this Title, *Godellus utrum Poeta?* It is not credible how much the Publick, and especially those who had a taste for Poetry, were scandaliz'd at this Libel, which had no other effect, than to cause a great deal of Indignation, and to shew that there is nothing so evident nor so well establish'd in the opinion of Men, whereof some body cannot maintain the contrary. He was attack'd by an Apoplexy on *Easter-day* the 17th of *April* 1672, and died at *Vence* the 21st of the same Month, Aged 67 Years.

JOHN

JOHN FRANCIS
SENAULT,
General of the Oratory.

WHEN Father *Senault* began to Preach, there was observ'd *three* very considerable faults in most of the Preachments of that time.

1. *No Method in the Discourse.*
2. *A great display of prophane Learning*; even that *Seneca* was oftner cited than *St. Paul*, *Cicero* than *St. Austin*, and the *Latin Poets* more than all the *Prophets*.
3. And lastly, *Pleasantry*, which was thought necessary there to bespeak the good-will and attention of the Auditors.

Father *Senault* purg'd the Pulpit of these three Disorders, and substituted in their place, *Method*, *The pure Doctrine of the Gospel*, explain'd by the Fathers; and *Gravity*, which the august Ministry of Preaching does require. This is the Testimony which the whole World has given of him, and particularly Father *de Lingendes*, altho' his Competitor, at that time, in the Glory of the Eloquence of the Pulpit.

His Father, *Peter Senault*, the King's Secretary, and *Commis*, &c. had the misfortune to be of the *Ligue fide*, and to have been the most famous

mous of the sixteen Heads it had at *Paris* : But his Son inherited not his Sentiments, and was, as the Queen *Anne* of *Austria* told him several times, as much devoted to the good Cause and the good Party, as his Father was the contrary. He began his Studies in the University of *Douay*, and came and finish'd 'em in that of *Paris*. He made himself there so able, that Cardinal *de Berulle*, who then was labouring upon the Establishment of the Congregation of the Oratory, charm'd with his Modesty, and above all, with his Piety, chose him for one of the first Subjects of his Congregation. He was employ'd, at first, in teaching human Learning, and afterward Rhetoric in the most celebrated Colleges of that Company. The Talent he had for Eloquence, having appear'd in these Exercises, his Superiors engag'd him to give himself entire to Preaching, wherein he became one of the first Men of his Age. He labour'd 12 or 15 Years, by his own confession, in forming a Style, and in polishing his Language, yet without discontinuing his study of Divinity, of Scripture, and the holy Fathers, whereof he made to himself such an inexhaustible Fund of Learning, which hath furnish'd out forty Lent Seasons, which he preach'd the most part at *Paris*, in the most eminent Churches, at Court, and in the Church of the Oratory of St. *Honorius*, where the two Queens came ordinarily to hear him, with a great concourse of People.

He had, in the Pulpit, an Air modest, humble and majestic all together, Voice clean and sounding, Gesture noble and regular, and a clearness in Discourse; which, notwithstanding the force of his Expressions, and the sublimeness
of

30 *Illustrious Men of France,*

of his Thoughts, render'd him as intelligible to Minds the least enlightned, as to Genius's, the most lively, the most vast, and the most transcendent; and 'twas in this Particular he excell'd mostly, altho' admirable in all others. He was no less commendable for his *Virtue* than for his *Eloquence*. There was no Disorder or Vice, (where-ever he was call'd) which he did not attack with all the force and all the vehemence of a true Preacher of the Gospel. This Christian liberty proceeded from his perfect Disinterestedness. Cardinal *Mazarin* having told him that he was troubled, that justice to his Merit had been so long delay'd, and that he need only declare to him what he could wish, and that he would with pleasure beg it of the King. He thank'd him for his Goodness, and pray'd him not to trouble the King for a Man who was content, and who in his Condition esteem'd himself happier than his Eminence. The Queen-Mother having sent him the Breviate of a Bishoprick, with assurance of giving him the best in the Province, if it came vacant; he sent it back to her, choosing rather to remain a plain Priest, than to see himself rais'd to the most glittering Honours; wherein he had reason, not only for the safety of his Conscience, but to continue to do more Service to the Church, in Preaching in all places, which he could not ha' done, by shutting himself up in the Confines of a single Diocese.

In this design of being Useful to all the World, he apply'd himself, when he was elected Superior of *S. Magloire*, to form young Ecclesiastics to Preaching; he gave 'em Rules, and furnish'd them with Matters in public Conferences, where he exercis'd 'em, after he had given 'em the Example

during the Last Century. 31

ample of it. Out of this School came forth the Father *le Boux*, *Mascaron* and *Soanen*, afterwards Bishops of *Perigueux*, *d'Agen* and *de Senes*; and so many other celebrated Preachers; who at this Day fill the greatest Pulpits; the Fathers *Hubert*, *la Roche*, *la Tour*, and several others.

He was minded also to make himself useful to Ages to come, by several excellent Works he has left; *The Paraphrase of Job*, where at the same time that he preserves all the Majesty and Grandeur of his Original, he hath clear'd up all its Obscurities; the *Treatise of the use of the Passions*, which hath been translated into all Languages. A Book of *Sinful Man*; another, *The Christian Man*; another, *The Monarch*; and a great number of *Panegyriques of Saints*, all equally full of Piety and Eloquence.

He was not born only for *Instruction*, but also for *Management*, which appear'd when he was chosen General of his Order, whereof he was always honour'd as the *Superior*, and lov'd as the *Father*. He bore singly all the weight of Affairs, and answer'd with his own Hand, all the Letters he receiv'd, which amounted to above 300 *per Week*, being perswaded it gives a great confidence to Inferiors, to let 'em understand, that 'tis only their Superior who has the knowledge of the things they write to him about. He had so much Generosity for all the Fathers of his Congregation, that he never put any of 'em upon any Employ whatever, but he would try first, whether it was agreeable to them. He died the 3d of *August* 1670, Aged 71 Years, of an Apoplëxy, which seiz'd him suddenly, and carry'd him off in four Days. He thank'd God particularly.

32 *Illustrious Men of France,*

particularly, that he died without ever possessing any Place or any Benefice of the Church, having (he said) always been afraid of the Dignities and Conveniencies of great Livings, as what was the most dangerous thing in the World. He is buried in the middle of the Church of the Oratory of St. *Honorius*, where his Funeral Oration was pronounc'd by the Bishop of *Aire*, who had been his Disciple in Eloquence, known under the name of Abbat *de Fromentieres*, before he was Bishop, in presence of several other Prelates, and an incredible affluence of Hearers.

ANTHONY

ANTH. ARNAULD,

Doctor of Sorbonne.

THE Public have been divided upon some *Opinions* which Monsieur *Arnauld* hath maintain'd, but never upon his *Merit*.

There hath been but *one* Voice there, and he always pass'd for one of the greatest Men the Church has had these many Ages. His Father, *Anthony Arnauld*, who was Attorney-General to Queen *Catherine de Medicks*, would not embrace any other Profession, but that of the Bar. It is true, that he acquitted himself of it with so much honour, and after so extraordinary a manner, that since him there hath been no body, reserving *Monf. le Maistre*, his Grandson, who hath gone through it with more Luster and Dignity.

His House was continually full of Princes and great Lords, who came to consult him upon their most important Affairs; and he was every where in such Veneration, that after his death he was expos'd upon his Bed for some time, to satisfy the Public, who demanded him, as it were, with clamour.

Anthony Arnauld, of whom we are speaking, the twentieth and last of his Children, was born at *Paris* the 6th of *February* 1612. He began from his Infancy to give marks of that circum-

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ference

34 *Illustrious Men of France,*

ference of Genius for the Letters and Sciences which afterwards made him so very Eminent. He embrac'd the Ecclesiastical State, and set himself to stand Disputes in the *Sorbonne*, where he appear'd with extraordinary distinction in all his Acts, always attended with incredible applause.

When he was Doctor, he resolv'd, after his Father's Example, to remain all his Life in the state to which Providence had call'd him; and he look'd upon himself, in that Post, as it were, a Centinel set to stop the passing of any thing against the Truth; and he believ'd there was enough to do to acquit himself faithfully of so important a Function. Some Questions being stir'd upon Matters of Grace, occasion'd by a Book of *Jansenius*, which was then printed in France, he compos'd divers Writings upon this Subject, which brought upon him a great deal of Contradiction. He wrote two Letters to a Duke and Peer, upon a certain Lord's being notify'd, that he was not to be receiv'd to the Sacrament of Penance, so long as he entertain'd an Abbot whom they did not like should be about him; and likewise, until he took his Grand-daughter from *Port-Royal*. There was found in the 2d Letter, two Propositions, which were condemn'd by the *Sorbonne*, one as Heretical, and the other Temerarious, which excluded him that House, with 70 Doctors, who were not of opinion with the Majority. After some Years, Pope *Clement IX.* and the King, put a stop to the division which these Disputes had brought into the Church.

There was struck upon this occasion, a Medal, having on one side the King's Head, and on the other,

other an Altar, on which the Keys of the Church and the Scepter of *France* are put in *Sautoir*, (crois-wise) with these Words round 'em, *Gratia & Pax a Deo*; and underneath, *Ob restitutionem Ecclesiæ concordiam*, 1669. After this *Pacification*, Monsieur *Arnauld* went to *Verfailles*, where he was receiv'd by the King and the whole Court with uncommon marks of Esteem. Returning to *Paris*, he was so oppress'd with Visits, altho' he Lodg'd in the extream parts of the Suburbs of *St. James*, that for his own quiet, and much more to take from those that did not love him, all occasion of reproaching him with holding Cabals: He chang'd his Lodging several times; but not being able to find out one where he might not give suspicion of making Assemblies, he went at last out of *France*, in the Year 1679. He never return'd thither since, keeping himself so conceal'd, that his Friends and nearest Relations have scarce ever known the place where he was, nor even the place where he died. The Day he fell sick, which was the first of *August* 1694, and the two following Days, he said Mass in the place of his Abode, according to the permission he had obtain'd for it, some Years ago, of *Alexander VIII.* and *Innocent XII.* and 4 Days afterwards, having receiv'd all his Sacraments, he died in an admirable Tranquillity, aged 82 Years and some Months. He desir'd his Heart might be carry'd to *Port-Royal*, which he always lov'd, because his Mother, six of his Sisters, and five of his Nieces had been Nuns there, all of an exemplary Piety, and full of the Spirit and Virtue of their Family.

Monsieur *Arnauld* had a great reach of Mind, and a prodigious Memory, which Age never

36 *Illustrions Men of France,*

weaken'd : He knew Polite Literature perfectly, and the ancient Authors were as present to him as if he had never made any other Study. He had a peculiar Genius for the Mathematics, and 'tis he who has given the World (without the Author's Name) *The Elements of Geometry*, so universally esteem'd. He made in his Youth several Objections to Monsieur *Des Cartes*, upon his Metaphysical Meditations, which were regarded by that great Philosopher, as the most solid and most difficult to resolve of all those which had been oppos'd to him.

The Rational Grammar is all his own, and he had a great share in *The Art of Thinking*. These Books are both Masterpieces in their kind.

His Zeal for the King was extream, and several times he was expos'd (in the Exile whereunto he condemn'd himself) to very rough usage, for want of Patience with some People, who not knowing, as he did, all the Heroic Qualities of this Monarch, would speak of him according to their Passions and Interests.

He was in very great esteem at *Rome* ; and were assur'd, that it was more than once design'd to honour him with the Purple.

His principal Works, besides those whereof we have spoken, are, *A Book of frequent Communion*, which he made at the Age of 28 Years, that *Of the Tradition of the Church upon Penance*, *The Morality of Jesus Christ overthrown by the Calvinists*, *The Morality of the Calvinists convinced de novo*, and *A Treatise of the Reading of the holy Scripture*. Altho' there be printed *The Defence of the Perpetuity of the Faith* under his Name, to give it the more authority, the Work however is not wholly his, and *Monf. Nicole* has

a great share in it. Upon occasion of this Book, we ought not to forget his incredible pains in procuring from the *Levant* the authentic Testimony which the Eastern Churches have given of the Conformity of *their* Belief with *ours* upon the Mystery of the Eucharist. The Acts of it are deposited in the King's Library, and in that of the *Benedictines* of St. *Germain des Prez*, after having compleated the Confusion of the Heretics, and the Seal put to the proofs not only of the Book of *the Perpetuity of the Faith*, but to those of all the Volumes which Monsieur *Arnauld* hath writ against the Minister *Claude* upon the same Subject; a Volume which will for ever shew the Superiority of one Writer above another, when the force of *Genius* is supported by the force of *Truth*.

JAMES SIRMOND,

Jesuit.

JAMES *Sirmond* was born at *Riom* in *Auvergne* in the Year 1558, of considerable Parents, who having observ'd in him in his tender Years a surprizing vivacity of Wit, took care to have him instructed by excellent Masters. He profited so well with their Documents, that when he was but 15 Years old, he was *himself* capable of instructing *others*: For, being become Jesuit at that Age, he was oblig'd, by his Superiours, as soon as they had receiv'd him, to teach the *Greek* and *Latine* Tongues; which he did, for some Years, with extraordinary success. He had the honour to have for Disciples *Charles de Valois* Duke of *Angoulême*, natural Son of *Charles IX.* and *St. Francis de Sales*, Bishop and Prince of *Geneva*. He had for Friends *Peter Pithou*, and *Nicolas le Fevre*, Preceptor of *Louis XIII.* who have both born him authentic Testimony of the singular Esteem they made of his Merit. Going to *Rome* at the Age of 32, the General of his Order, *Claudius Aquaviva* made him his Secretary, and lov'd him tenderly, because of his extream Diligence, and above all, the gift he had of taking perfectly in his Letters the Sense and Intention of his General.

As he always reckon'd there were but two things a wise Man could wish for, and which were capable of making him happy, *Learning* and *Virtue*, he devoted himself wholly to *acquire* or to *augment* these two incomparable Treasures: And because the knowledge of all the Sciences is of a compass which surpasses that of human Wit, he was of opinion he ought to confine himself to the Study of *Ecclesiastical History*, as the most suitable to his Condition, and the most useful to the Church. Whatever progress he made therein, he never was tempted, in the whole course of his Youth, to print any Work with respect to the Public, to whom no Book ought to be given (he thought) which did not taste of the Maturity of the Author's Age. He began with putting to light several Authors, who being very obscure, and bury'd in the Dust of some Librarys, were of no use. He illustrated them with an infinity of very learned Notes, and thereby made 'em more beneficial than ever they had been. His greatest Work, was, *The Collection of all the Councils of the Church of France*, which he dedicated to the King. Cardinal *Richelieu*, touch'd with the same admiration of him with all the learned World, forgot nothing which might testify the value he had of a Work of that importance.

He had a singular force in Disputes either of Controversie or Literature, and he never went off other than Conqueror in these sort of Combats. Amongst many which he gloriously battled, there was two very famous, and which acquir'd him a great Reputation. The first was against *James Godefroy*, one of the most learned Men of the Age; who, arm'd with the autho-

40 *Illustrious Men of France,*

city of *Rufin*, combatted strenuously the Pope's Jurisdiction over the Provinces call'd *Suburbicaires*. The Arguments of this Adversary appear'd invincible, not only to the Commonalty of Scholars, but even to Cardinal *Perron*, who is acknowledg'd for the most skilful and most enlighten'd Head then living, in Ecclesiastical Matters. However, Father *Sirmond* untied the Knot of the Question so dexterously by three Treatises he publish'd one after the other, that he brought back all People to his Opinion, which at this Day is the same with all the Learned upon this Difficulty. The second Dispute he had, was yet more famous, and of a Discussion more difficult. In the first, he had of his side all the Catholics; in the second, he had to do against *Petrus Aurelius*, a Catholic, and the declar'd Defender of the Right of Bishops, which gain'd him the Suffrages of the greatest part of the Clergy and Schools of Divinity. This *Petrus Aurelius* was Abbot of St. *Cyran*, who had conceal'd himself under that Name, after having agreed with *Jansenius* Bishop of *Ypres*, to divide between 'em the Name of St. *Austin*; one taking *Aurelius*, and the other *Augustinus*: Thus the Abbot de S. *Cyran* put the Name of *Aurelius* to his Book, and *Jansenius* put to his that of *Augustinus*. Father *Sirmond* was accus'd of not being faithful in the Edition of the Councils of the Church of *France*, not only in some places, but in the whole mass of the Work. Those were the proper Words of his Adversary. He satisfy'd in such a manner all the Objections that were made to him, that he receiv'd very great Applause upon it.

However

However Learned he was, the force and solidity of his Judgment surpass'd still all the Lights of his Knowledge; no body ever had more Sagacity nor Exactness in the well solving a Difficulty, and in taking his measures right upon the knotty passages of Literature: Whence it comes he is scarce ever deceiv'd in his Works; or if he has committed any Faults, they have been very slight ones, and almost imperceptible; a Privilege peculiar to Spirits of this Character. In his Studies, he had only in view the search of Truth, without any attention to the Glory might redound to him from it. His *universal Disinterestedness* for all the things of the World, was perfectly well known by the manner of his Conduct at Court, where he was oblig'd to frequent Attendances in quality of the King's Confessor. It was also known, when the Pope having wish'd he would come to *Rome*, and the King not being willing to suffer it, (to preserve in *France* a Man of his Merit) he understood the Pope had a design to make him Cardinal; for he sincerely protested to his Friends, that if upon his arrival at *Rome* the thing had been told him, he would have return'd back into *France* the same moment. He was belov'd by all the illustrious Men of his time, and particularly by the famous *Ferom Bignon*, with whom he was ty'd in a very strict Amity. He possess'd all he had wish'd, a sound Mind, Knowledge and Virtue, a long Life, and Leisure attended with Dignity. He died in 1651, aged 93 Years.

DENYS PETAU, Jesuit.

DENYS *Petau* was born at *Orleans* in the Year 1583, and became Jesuit in the College of *Clermont* at *Paris* in the Year 1605, at 22 Years of Age. From that time to the Day of his death, (which happen'd 48 Years afterwards) he never ceas'd doing honour to his Company, by his Piety, by his Learning, and by his Works. He had not only an universal Genius, which made familiar to itself almost all the Languages as well dead as living, as also all imaginable Sciences, join'd with the knowledge of the curious Arts; but what was more wonderful and much more commendable, was, That he possess'd almost all these things in a high degree of perfection. There are found Wits enough, who have an *Overture* and *Facility* for every thing they undertake; but these sort of universal Wits scarce ever reach to the *perfect* knowledge of any of the Sciences whereto they apply themselves, and are not, at most, but *Seconds*.

It was not only by the force of his Genius that Father *Petau* made himself so Eminent; it was also by the good Order he establish'd in his Studies, wherein he proceeded like wise Architects, who begin by casting solid Foundations, upon which the Superstructure cannot fail. He gave himself

himself first to the study of Grammar, and in translating, without intermission, the *Greek* Authors into *Latine*, and *Latine* Authors into *Greek*. He acquir'd a perfect and entire knowledge of those two Tongues.

From thence he pass'd to the Study of *Eloquence* and *Poetry*, whereof one cannot doubt that he knew all the *Finesses*, all the *Graces*, and all the *Beauties*, though one had read his Works never so little. He made Verse to the last Days of his life; and, after the example of *Gregory Nazianzen*, he made use of Poetry as a Recreation in the painful travels of his Studies. It serv'd him also as in Interpreter, to explain the Sentiments which his Piety suggested to him upon all occasions. There is no sort of Poetry wherein he has not succeeded. He hath also compos'd Tragedies; and, not content with making *Greek* and *Latine* Verses, he made *Hebrew* ones, which have had the applause of all who could judge of 'em. Monsieur *Grotius*, very ingenious, and difficult to please in these Matters, gives him all the Commendations which the force of Merit can extort.

After enriching himself with all the Ornaments of Language and good Diction, he apply'd to *Philosophy*, to strengthen himself in the solidity of Thinking; after which, he pass'd to *History*, and at the same time to *Geography*, and to *Chronology*, which are as the two Eyes of History, and which ought never to be separated from it. 'Twas there he made Discoveries which astonish'd his Age, as they will all Posterity: For, not content to draw forth Knowledge in the Writings of *Strabo* and *Ptolomy*, and also in all the *Cartes* of the Mo-
derns,

44 *Illustrious Men of France,*

derns, infinitely more Correct and more Instructive than any thing the Ancients have writ. He made a profound Study of *Astronomy*, without which, he judg'd, he could not lay down any thing of certainty in Chronology.

Some short time before he writ upon these Subjects, *Joseph Scaliger*, who was look'd upon not only as the most able Chronologist, but as the only one in the World, had given the Public his Book *Of the Correction of the Times*, a Work wherein he redresses most part of the Errors which had slipt into that Science, and was esteem'd a Rule, to which all the World ought to be conformable. This did not hinder Father *Petau* from undertaking the same Work, and from correcting, by his Book *Of the Doctrine of Times*, a great many Faults which were found in that *Of the Correction of the Times* by *Scaliger*; which he did, with strict regard to all the Laws of Honour which Men of Learning owe to one another; so that, without staining the Glory of his Predecessor, he acquir'd abundance to himself in the same Science.

After having thus amass'd all the Treasures of human Learning, he did not use 'em solely for the satisfaction of his Mind, or for a vain Ostentation, but he consecrated them entirely to the glory of God and the benefit of his Church, by a resolution conformable to the intention of the Society, and to the Examples of *Clement of Alexandria*, *St. Basil*, and *St. Gregory*, who after they had enrich'd themselves with the Spoils of the *Gentiles*, turn'd against them their own proper Weapons.

Divinity was the Port whither he steer'd all his Voyages of Learning, and for which he employ'd

ploy'd all he had acquir'd by his Studies. He possess'd equally the two parts of Theology, *That which explains the holy Scripture*, and *That which employs it self in defending the truth of the Doctrine*. He has not printed any Commentary upon holy Writ, content with the Explication of the Fathers, and not being willing either to find fault with what they have writ, or to dispute with them upon these Matters. But as to what regards Controversie, it is not credible how he hath succeeded. The great number of Words which he hath done, and which are in the Hands of all Divines, are a very authentic Testimony of it. One does not know what to admire most in the great number of Books which he hath written; whether the abundance of Citations, or the Eloquence of Discourse, or the Art and Method with which all things are disposed, or, in fine, his Zeal for the Truth. It is not conceiv'd how a single Man was able to compose so many Volumes, especially if one considers that he never had any Body under him to write or to transcribe his Compositions. He had an incredible ardeney for the Conversion of Heretics, and there was no means which he endeavour'd not, to bring back the celebrated *Grotius* into the bosom of the Church, when he came hither Ambassador. 'Tis even said he did convert him, and that there only wanted to this Work the Ceremony of a public Abjuration. He signaliz'd himself very much in the Dispute which arose upon the matter of Grace; and whilst those he attack'd did not Deign to answer a great many Writers considerable enough, they always look'd upon him as their most formidable Adversary, and have

46 *Illustrious Men of France,*

have answer'd all the Works he wrote against them.

He died in the College of *Clermont* the 11th of *December* 1652, aged 69 Years, leaving behind him a Memory which will never die. The Catalogue of his Books make almost a Volume, so that it is not possible, in the little space that's left, to give the particulars of them.

JOHN

JOHN MORIN, Priest of the Oratory.

THIS Person so deserves to be number'd amongst the most learned Men of his Age, that if there be any thing to be found blameable in him, it is, perhaps, his having carry'd too far the curiosity of his Studies, in desiring to draw forth all the vain Learning of the Rabbins, as he himself hath own'd. He was born at *Blois* in the Year 1591, of *Luke Morin* a Merchant, and of *Faquette Gaussand*, both of the pretended Reform'd Religion. He began his Studies there, and continu'd 'em at *Rochelle*, where he acquir'd a perfect knowledge of the *Greek* and *Latine* Tongues. He went from thence to *Leyden*, where he learnt Philosophy, the Law, and Mathematics. After which, he apply'd himself to the Study of Divinity and the Oriental Tongues.

When he had attain'd the Sciences and Languages, he devoted himself to the reading of holy Scripture, the Fathers, and the Councils. The chief fruit he gather'd from this Occupation, was a dawning discovery of the Errors of his Religion, and of all the Maxims which his Masters of Divinity had taught him; to which help'd not a little the Disputes which happen'd at that time between the *Partisans* of *Arminius* and those of *Gomar*.

48 *Illustrious Men of France,*

*Gomar*us, upon matters of Grace and Predestination. For finding nothing that satisfy'd him in the Opinions of either, he set himself to a thorough Study of those of the Catholic Doctors; so that, what had been a fatal Rock to many others, conducted him to the Port and Knowledge of the Truth. Being arriv'd at *Paris*, he got into the esteem and familiarity of all the Learned, and particularly of Cardinal *Perron*, who was surpriz'd to find so much Erudition, and so much knowledge of Things the most rare, in a Man so little advanced in Age as he then was. It was no small Joy to this great Personage, when he had clear'd to him some difficult Points of Controversie, to see him yield, with the help of Grace; to the force of his Reasons. After some stay in the Family of this Cardinal, he went into the Congregation of the Oratory which Cardinal *de Berulle* had then lately instituted in *France*, where he receiv'd all the holy Orders. It has been remark'd, that from the time he receiv'd *that* of the Priesthood, he pass'd not a Day of his life without celebrating the Mass, in acknowledgment of the Grace God had given him to come forth from the darkness of Heresie.

He made it his principal business to refute either by Word or Writing, the same Errors where-with he had been infected in his Youth. He apply'd himself likewise very much to convince the *Jesuits*, and to draw 'em out of their Blindness; to this end making use of, in particular, the Vulgate and the Septuagint, which he caus'd to be reprinted at *Paris* in the 1628, and which he maintain'd against those who were minded to attack him, by an admirable Work which he gave the

the Public next Year, under the Title of *Exercitationes Biblicæ*; a Work which he was Revising for 20 Years, and which has been reprinted after his death by the care of Father *Fronton le Duc*. He compos'd, being then very young, *The History of the Deliverance of the Church by Constantine*; and that *Of the Progress of the Sovereignty of the Popes, by the Piety and Liberality of our Kings*. He had a commerce of Study and of Friendship with all the learned Men of his time. He gain'd such an esteem among the Clergy of *France*, that the Prelates, in their Assembly, commonly took his Advice upon Matters the most important, the most obscure, and the most difficult. There was admir'd in him two things which rarely meet in one and the same Man, profound Knowledge, and profound Humility. His Reputation made him wish'd for at *Rome*, whither he went by order of Cardinal *Barbarin*.

This Cardinal presented him to Pope *Urban VIII.* who receiv'd him with great marks of Esteem, and often admitted him into his Cabinet. At that time a Congregation was held at the Cardinal's, where there were frequent Conferences touching the ancient state of the *Greek Church*, of her Rites, and of the Doctrine of her Fathers. *Morin*, who assisted there almost always, then laid the design of composing the Books he hath made of holy Orders, Penance, and some other Treatises. He so well manag'd the *Greeks*, by his Writings, his Conferences, and the Protection he procur'd 'em, that he very much forwarded the business of the Reunion of the *Greek Church* with the *Latine*. At this time Cardinal *Richelieu*, who knew his Merit,
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50 *Illustrions Men of France,*

and thought him a necessary Man to be near himself for the great Designs he was meditating, oblig'd his Superiors to recal him into *France*. People were amaz'd to see him quit *Rome*, where he was just upon the point of being elevated to the first Dignities of the Church. He possess'd, in perfection, the Grammaires, Poets, Orators, and Historians. He knew also the Apoththegms and Opinions of all the Philosophers. He was consummate in Geography and Chronology, in the knowledge of Manners, of Customs and Polity of all Nations; and what was very extraordinary, he knew holy Scripture in all the learned Languages into which it was translated. He reviv'd among Christians the *Samaritan* Tongue, delivering, as one may say, from Darknes, the *Hebrew Samaritan Pentateuch*, which had not been heard speak of since *St. Jerome*. He had it printed in the *Polyglot of Paris*, with a most excellent Preface. His Merit was too great not to have Antagonists. He had, and among others, the *Sieur de Muis*, and *Father Simon*, who have been oblig'd, by the force of Truth, to make his Praises in the very passages where they attack'd him.

His principal Character, was an extream Sweetness, which he so preserv'd in the midst of the roughest Disputes of Matters of Religion and Controversie, that it never happen'd to him to be transported. This Moderation of his, was the cause, that notwithstanding the obstinacy he found all his Life, among his Relations, to embrace the Catholic Religion, he left 'em all his Estate, contrary to the Advice of the most part of his Friends.

He

during the Last Century. 51

He died at *Paris*, aged 68 Years, the 28th of *February* 1659. He was much lamented by all the Knowing; and particularly by the learned Library keeper of the *Vatican*, *Leo Allatius*; as a great Scholar, and one to whom *Antiquity* is very much oblig'd.

E 2 LOUIS

LOUIS de BOURBON, Prince of *Condé.*

THE Prince, whose Panegyric I undertake, was one of those great Men whereof Antiquity made her Demi-Gods, and whose extraordinary Qualities would have seem'd to her above the force of human Nature.

He was born at *Paris* the 3d of *Septemb. 1621*, of *Hen. de Bourbon* Prince of *Condé*, and *Charlotte de Montmorency*. He began his Studies at eight Years of Age, with the Jesuites at *Bourges*, wherein he made such progress, that at his thirteenth Year he maintain'd Theses in Philosophy, and excell'd over all his Competitors, in the same manner as he did afterwards all the great Captains of his time.

His Constitution sanguine, choleric and robust, inclin'd him to Gaming, Hunting, Divertisements, and furnish'd him with Strength for the greatest Actions. His Stature tall, well-shap'd and easie, gave him a world of grace in Dancing, Riding, Fencing, and all the military Exercises. He had a noble Air, haughty and affable at the same time, a great deal of Fire in his Eyes, and a Physiognomy much-what of the Eagle. His Genius was of the first order in all things, and particularly in War; for which he was so born, that he never felt greater Joy, than to see himself

self at the Head of an Army ready for Battel. 'Twas in these terrible Moments that War had charms for him. At the same time, when the noise and tumult of an Engagement discomposes the Stoutest and most Intrepid, 'twas then he, was calmest, saw all things best, and gave his Orders the coolest and easiest. In a word, that which caus'd Agitation in others, put him, as it were, into his Repose and natural Temper. He hath form'd, by his own Example, 12 *Marechals* of *France*, and an infinite number of all sorts of Officers. No body was more vigilant, whether in choosing Posts, or in causing Discipline to be observ'd. He would be waken'd at any Hour, whenever there was occasion to speak to him; always surprizing the Enemy, and never giving them the same Opportunity. These Qualities, join'd with his Courage, have made his Character, one of the greatest Captains that ever was. 'Twas easie to make this judgment after his Heroic Actions: But, what is wonderful, and shews that the symptom of Grandeur and Superiority was well mark'd in him, is, that Cardinal *de Richelieu* judg'd of it, even in the Year 1641; when he was not more than 20 Years old. *He will be* (says the Cardinal to Mr. *de Chavigni*, after a long Conference he had with this young Prince upon the point of War) *the greatest Captain in Europe, and the first Man of his Age.*

He began to signalize himself in quality of Volunteer in the Sieges of *Arras*, *Ayre*, and *Perpignan*; in which last, he commanded the *Arriere-ban* of *Languedoc*. In these three Campaignes, he gave so many proofs of an extraordinary capacity for Commanding in Chief, that *Louis XIII.* was of opinion, he could not put

54 *Illustrions Men of France,*

the conduct of his Army into better Hands: The Battel of *Rocroy* which he won, the Victories he obtain'd at *Fribourg* and *Nordlingen*, and the taking of above 20 considerable Towns in less than four Years, fully justify'd so wise and happy a choice. The Siege of *Lerida* had no favourable success; but the Prudence with which he govern'd himself therein, did him Honour, and the following Campaigns crown'd him with Glory by the taking of *Ipres*, and the famous Battel of *Lens*, follow'd with one of the compleatest, greatest Victories that ever was gain'd. To these famous Exploits may be join'd his Actions in *Franche Comté*, and in *Holland*, under the Orders of the King, Commanding in Person, altho' he was constrain'd to own, *That he saw things done by his Monarch, which, till then, he thought impossible*; such were, the taking, in one Month, 40 Towns and 4 Provinces. His Valour shone no less in the Battel of *Senef*, where, inferiour to the Enemy in Forces, he routed 'em, took their Baggage and Cannon.

It is true, he had the misfortune to see himself engag'd in bearing Arms against his Prince; but, perhaps, this misfortune was necessary to illustrate Virtues, which, otherwise, might not ha' been known. The Enemy, minding to make use of the state he was in, did all their Endeavours to make him remit something of his advantages of Prince of the Blood of *France*, in favour of the Arch Duke *Leopold*, Governor of the *Netherlands*: But nothing could shake him, and he rather chose to expose himself to all Extremities, than to suffer the least prejudice to his State and to the dignity of his Birth. His retirement in his Castle of *Chantilly*, contributed also

also infinitely to exhibit the whole Grandeur of his Soul. His military Virtues being oblig'd to take repose, an infinite multitude of other great Qualities, which the noise of Arms had hinder'd from appearing, shew'd themselves in all their beauty. The same Genius, which had so well succeeded in drawing up Armies in Batalia, was seen to succeed no less in Occupations more soft, and render'd him *Here* as *aimable*, as he was *There terrible*.

The incredible penetration of his Wit enter'd him into every thing fine in the Sciences, and insensibly made him their Master, even to the same degree with those who make a particular profession of 'em; bestowing (for his Diversion) upon Books, part of the Nights which the activity of his Soul would rob from his Slumber. But, if his Life was admirable; (his Death thro'ly Christian, and for which he had prepar'd himself by two or three Years exercise of solid Piety) was still more precious in the Eyes of God and Men. It happen'd at *Fontainebleau*, whither he was gone to be present with the Dutchess of *Bourbon*, his Daughter-in-Law, then ill of the Small-pox, and where he expir'd the 11th of Dec. 1687, in the Arms of the Duke d'*Anguien*, his Son, whom he lov'd with all the tenderness of a good Father, and whom he left sole Heir of his *Estate*, and of his *Virtues*.

Viscount de Turenne.

WHEN *Homer* was minded to draw the Image of a great Captain, he painted him haughty, transported, choleric, inexorable, little regarding Justice, and taking all things for granted to him by the right of Arms. If we would form to our selves a just Idea of him whereof I speak, we need only suppose him with Qualities just the contrary; not that he has not done the same great Actions with the most vehement of Captains; but, that he better compass'd the end of every thing he enterpriz'd, by yielding to the guidance of Reason, than was ever done by all others, in following the impetuous motions of their Passions.

Henry de la Tour d'Auvergne was born at *Sedan* the 11th of *September* 1611, and was baptiz'd in the Temple of that Town, according to the usage of *Calvinism*, profess'd by his Father *Henry de la Tour d'Auvergne Duke de Bouillon*, Sovereign Prince of *Sedan*, and Marshal of *France*, as also by his Mother *Elizabeth of Nassau*. His whole Life was but one contexture of noble, generous, and magnanimous Actions, which began from the first steps of his Infancy. His Preceptor going to whip him, he took a Sword and would have kill'd him. *Monsieur de Bouillon*, his Father, being inform'd of it, had him chastiz'd very severely. However, some few

few Days after this, happening to find his Master asleep, and ready to be stung by a Serpent, he drew his Sword, kill'd the Serpent, and wak'd him, who at first was afraid he had a design upon his Life; but when he came to understand his Pupil's Generosity, he could not enough admire him. He lov'd to comfort those he saw in Misery, and was ingenious in finding out ways to do it, that might not give 'em confusion. He was then but very young, when seeing a Gentleman reduc'd to Poverty, by spending his whole Estate in the Service and in the Army, he bethought himself of trucking Horses with him, and gave him extraordinary good for very indifferent ones, making as if he did not understand 'em. It is rare, that a young Man entering into the World, should yield to be taken for a Cully, only to spare a Man's modesty in receiving relief in his Indigence.

He went first into the Army 1627, under his Uncles the Princes *Maurice* and *Henry* of *Nassau*. He pass'd into the Service of *France*, and was soon made *Marshal de Camp*. He was not rich, nor had he above 40000 Livres yearly Income to bear all the Expences to which his Quality and Post indispensably oblig'd him, yet tho' very much straiten'd with so small a Revenue, he never would accept of considerable Sums his Friends offer'd, *for fear*, he told 'em, *he should happen to be kill'd, and they should come to lose any part of it*. He had the same nicety with respect to Trades-people, of whom he would never take any thing upon credit for the same reason. So great an honesty of Soul, join'd to so many other good Qualities, made his Friendship desired by all the World; and Cardinal *Richelieu*, a quick

58 *Illustrious Men of France,*

a quick discerner of Merit, sent to solicit his Friendship by Marshal *Melleraye*, offering him one of his Relations in Marriage. The Queen having sent him a Marechal of *France's* Battoon, with the Command of the Army in *Germany*, he found the Troops in so bad a condition, that he sold his Plate to cloath the Soldiers, and to remount the Cavalry; which thing he did more than once in the course of his Life. He Commanded the principal Army of the King from 1652, to the *Pyrenean* Peace. Nothing is more admirable than the succession of glorious Actions done by him in those times of difficulty, when *France*, divided as she was, had to defend herself against Foreigners, and her own Children. It may be said, that he then bore almost singly the whole Body of the State.

Posterity will be in pain to comprehend, how, with the few Troops he had, he could be able to make Head on all sides; and tho' in most Rencounters the weakest, yet to get out of 'em with advantage. It is true, no body ever knew better to Conduct an Army, better to Post it, better to Engage it; and above all, better to Preserve it. Thus, the Soldiers had such a confidence in his Wisdom, that where-ever he encamp'd 'em, they slept without fear of the Enemy, persuaded that he had seen to every thing, and that it was not possible to surprize him. They call'd him their Father, not only because of the great care he had of their Preservation; but also, because of his mild and tender way of using 'em, and the extraordinary Helps he procur'd 'em, whether in their Wounds, or in their Sicknesses. He rais'd the Siege of *Arras*, and had, some time after, the Post of Colonel-General of the

during the Last Century. 49

the light Horse, vacant by the death of the Duke *de Joyeuse*. Prince of the House of *Lorain*. He beat the *Spaniards* at the Battel of the *Downs*, altho' they had on their side the Prince of *Condé*: an Action, alone, capable of making the *Panegyric* of the greatest of Captains.

In 1667, he attended the King in the Conquest of part of *Flanders*, and gave the first Lessons of War to this great Monarch, who has since so well practis'd 'em. His Moderation was beyond every thing that's related of any the most dispassionate Philosophers, who had only that Quality to recommend 'em. So many moral Virtues in a Man of so great Valour, set all the World upon wishing his Conversion, which at length came to pass in 1661. He had several Conferences upon this so important a Subject with his Nephew the Duke *d'Albret*, since Cardinal *Bouillon*; and with the Abbot *Bossuet*, since Bishop of *Condam*. No body more rejoic'd at it than the King, who in creating for him the Post of Marshal General of his Camps and Armies, told him, at *Toulouse*, That it was his fault if he had not a much more considerable Place, by removing the obstacle of his Religion. But this Prince then refus'd with ease this mark of Honour, and all the other Advantages that were propos'd to him, for fear they should be look'd upon as the Morives of his Conversion.

His Death, which happen'd the 27th of *July* 1675, was worthy of his Life: He was advancing to Fight the Enemy, and had engag'd 'em in so unlucky a Post, that he was almost sure of Victory. A Cannon Ball took him off; which ending his Life, fill'd up the measure of his Glory.

09 *Illustrious Men of France,*

Glory. The King caus'd a solemn Service to be perform'd for him in the Church of *Nyrc Dame* at *Paris*, where all the superior Societies were present; and his Body was carry'd to *St. Denis*, the common Burying-place of our Kings, where afterwards a very magnificent *Mausoleum* was rais'd to him.

BLAISE

BLAISE FRANCIS,
Count de Pagan.

WE ought to be thankful to those who possessing perfectly any Art, are willing to communicate to the Public the knowledge they have of it, by imparting their Lights, especially if they have join'd Practice to Speculation, and can support Precepts with Examples. This is what he hath done, of whom we speak.

He had a Genius proper to succeed in all things, so that, having turn'd it entirely to War, and particularly to that part which regards Fortification, it is not credible what progress he made in that Science, having apply'd himself thereunto from his most tender Years. He knew the Mathematics, not only beyond what a Gentleman, who is minded to advance himself by Arms, generally learns of it; but even beyond what the Masters, who teach it, are accusom'd to know of it. He had so great an Overture of Sense for these sort of Sciences, that he learn'd 'em more readily by sole Meditation, than by reading of Authors who treat of 'em; so he employ'd less of his leisure upon this sort of Reading, than upon Books of History and Geography, whereof Thinking can give no knowledge, whatever Genius a Man can have. He had also made a particular

62 *Illustrious Men of France,*

particular study of Morality and Politics, so that one might say, he had, in some sort, describ'd himself in his *Heroic Man*, and made himself one of the most accomplish'd Gentlemen of his time. The late King was so persuaded of it, that he has been often heard to say, *The Count de Pagan, was one of the honestest, bravest, best made, dextrous Men in his Kingdom.*

He was born in *Provence* the 3d of *March*, 1604; and at 12 Years of Age, he embrac'd the profession of Arms, to which he was brought up with an extraordinary care. In the Year 1620, he was at the Siege of *Caën*, at the Combat of *Pont du Cé*, and at the Reduction of *Navarreins*, and the rest of *Bearn*, where he signaliz'd himself, and acquir'd a Reputation above that of one of his Age. The next Year, he was at the Sieges of *St. John d'Angeli*, *Clerac*, and *Montauban*, where he lost his left Eye by a Musquet-shot. He suffer'd at this Siege another loss, which was no less sensible to him, which was, that of the Constable *du Luines*, who died there of the Purples. This Constable was his very near Relation, and his Protector at Court, where he had brought him, and made his Merit known.

Instead of being discourag'd at this misfortune, he gather'd Strength, and a greater Confidence, that he should go farther in his Profession, persuading himself that Providence had preserv'd him only to favour him with new Graces. There was no Siege after that, no Battel, or other Rencontre, wherein he did not signalize himself either by Skill or Courage. At the Passage of the *Alps*, and the Barricades of *Susa*, he put himself at the Head of of the Forlorn Hope, the Guards,

Guards, and the bravest of the Youth, and undertook to arrive the first Man at the Attack, by a particular Path, but extremely dangerous, having gain'd the top of a very steep Mountain, there crying to those who follow'd him, *This is the Road to Glory*, he slid down the length of that Mountain; and his Companions following him, they came the first to the Attack, as he propos'd. At the Landing-place there was a furious shock, and the Troops coming to their support, they forc'd the Barricades. 'Twas after this heroic Action, that he had the pleasure of hearing the King, whose left Hand he had the honour of supporting, recount it to the Duke of Savoy, with extraordinary Commendations in presence of a very numerous Court. The King having besieg'd *Nancy* in 1633, he had also the honour of drawing with his Majesty the Lines and Forts of the Circumvallation. In the Year 1642, the King chose him to go serve in *Portugal* in quality of Marshal *du Camp*; and it was in that same Year he entirely lost his Sight by a fit of Sickness.

So soon as he found himself out of a condition of serving by his Strength and by his Courage, he resum'd more vigorously than ever the study of the Mathematics and Fortification, to become useful by his Wit and Industry, and to be able also thereby to Fight for his Prince and his Country. He gave immediately his Treatise of Fortification, which was publish'd in the Year 1645. All who understand this Science, agree, that till then, there had nothing been seen finer nor better writ upon that Subject, and that if there hath been made new Discoveries since, they are

64 *Illustrious Men of France,*

are deriv'd from these, as Conclusions issue from their Principles. He gave, in 1651, his *Geometrical Theorems*, which evidence a perfect knowledge of Geometry, and all the parts of Mathematics. In 1655, he printed a Paraphrase, in *French*, of the *Spanish* Relation of the River of the *Amazons*, by Father *Christopher de Rennes*, Jesuit. 'Tis assur'd, that, blind as he was, he himself dispos'd the Chart of that River, and the adjacent Countries, which is seen at the head of this Work.

In 1657, he gave *The Theory of the Planets*, disembarra's'd from the multiplicity of Excentrick Circles and Epicycles, which Astronomers have invented to explain their Motion, in making 'em move by Elipses, which discover with incredible Facility, the true Place and true Motion of the Planets. This Work has no less distinguish'd him among Astronomers, than That of Fortification among Engineers. He printed, in 1658, his *Astronomical Tables*, very succinct, and very clear. But, as it is difficult for great Men not to have some Weakness, his was, that of being possess'd in favour of Judicial Astrology; and altho' he was the most reserv'd of those who have written upon that Subject, what he has written of it cannot be put in the number of the things which are to do him honour. He was beloved and visited by all Persons illustrious in Dignity and Learning, and his House was a Recess for all Men of worth, both of Court and City.

He died at *Paris* the 18th of *November* 1665, aged 61 Years and 8 Months. The King sent his first Physician to visit him during his Sickness,

during the Last Century. 65

ness, and gave many other instances of the extraordinary Esteem he made of his Merit. He is buried in the Church of the Nuns of *la Croix* in the *Fauxbourg S. Antoine*. He died without Children, and without being Married; so the Branch of his Family which pass'd from *Naples* into *France*, in 1552, ended in his Person.

F. PETER

PETER SEGUIER, Chancellor of *France.*

THE House of *Seguier*, originally of the County of *Quercy*, is very noble and ancient. There hath been Chancellors of *Armagnac* and *Seneschals* of the Sword, who have distinguished themselves in the Wars of the *English*, in serving under the Counts of *Armagnac*, particularly *Arthur Seguire*, Lord of *St. Geniers*. From him are issued the Branches that are dispersed at *Toulouse*; and at *Paris*, where *Gerard Seguire* established himself first, and began to take the Gown, altho' all his Ancestors had Employment in the Sword. This Branch has been extremely fruitful in great Personages; and one may say, that it hath an advantage hardly to be met with elsewhere, which is, to have given to *France* a Chancellor, five Presidents *au Mortire*, eleven Councillors, two Attorneys General in the Parliament of *Paris*, and seven Masters of Requests.

If it be no small honour for the Person we are speaking of, to have so many great Men in his Family, it is yet more considerable, to have collected in his Person all the varieties of Merit which Nature had shar'd out to them. For it is true, to say, That *Monf. Seguier* was not deficient in any Quality to be wish'd in a great Magistrate.

Magistrate. Never did any Man better deserve to see himself at the head of Justice: For, 'tis said of him, That he not only knew perfectly well every thing that could relate to the Functions of Magistracy; but that there was not any Officer in *France* who better understood all the Devoirs of his own proper Office. He was born at *Paris* the 29th of *March* 1588: And after he had finish'd his Studies, which instanced the force and the abundance of his Genius, either in *Lettres*, or in the Law, Civil and Canon, whereof he possess'd the true knowledge better than any body in the World, he was Councillor, Master of Requests, Intendant in *Guienne*, and President *au Mortier*, an Office which he executed during the course of 9 Years.

The King having known his Merit and great Capacity, gave him the Seals the 27th of *February* 1633, as also the Office of Commander and Keeper of the Seals of the King's Orders, vacant by the death of Monsieur *de Bullion* in 1640, and the 11th of *December* 1635, that of Chancellor, vacant by the death of Monsieur *Daligre*. About the end of the Year 1639, the King sent him into *Normandy*, to appease the popular Emotions in several Towns of that Province, and his Majesty gave him a Council, compos'd of Counsellors of State, Masters of Requests, Registers, and Others, and of Monsieur *de la Vrilliere*, Secretary of State, to sign by command all the Dispatches he should judge necessary.

To this Commission his Majesty join'd the Command of the Troops that he sent under the conduct of Monsieur *de Gassion*, to reduce the *Mutineers* to reason. This General took

68 *Illustrious Men of France,*

Orders of him; and since the foundation of the Monarchy, he is the only Chancellor with whom such an Authority hath been intrusted. He acquitted himself of this Employ with all the success that could be expected, and the King express'd a great satisfaction with him. It is true, that the Seals were taken from him twice, but the suddenness with which they were restor'd to him, was much to his Glory, as it argued the necessity there was of his Ministry in Times of that difficulty, occasion'd by the Motions happen'd in *Paris*. One Day as he went to Parliament to declare his Majesty's Intentions during the Troubles of that City, he was stop'd by the Rabble, who had barricado'd all the Streets; so that not being able to go forward with his Coach, he alighted to continue his way, and rather chose to expose his Life, than not to execute his Master's Orders.

He very narrowly escap'd with his Life upon this occasion; for, striving to break through the Crowd, several Discharges were made at him, and the Lieutenant of the Provost was kill'd just by him. His Majesty being inform'd of the danger he was in, sent Marshal *de la Meilleraye* with the *French* and *Swiss* Guards to bring him off. When he arriv'd at the Royal Palace, it is not credible with what joy he was receiv'd by the King, by the Queen-Mother, and the whole Court. Scarce was he enter'd, but he was oblig'd to answer the Speech of the Parliament which the King had call'd, and to signify to them the Intention of his Majesty. He did it with so much Gravity, Vigour and cool Blood, as if he was just come out of his Closet, and
with

with that Force and Eloquence, which struck with admiration all that heard him.

Cardinal *Richelieu*, who knew his Sufficiency in all sorts of Literature, and the delicateness of his Wit, desir'd that he would be of the *French Academy*, to strengthen it in its beginning, by the reputation of so great a Magistrate. And when the Cardinal died, the Academy which assembled at Monsieur *Seguier's*, and did so always till his Death, knowing his admirable Talents, made him their Protector, a Quality which *Louis the Great* hath not disdain'd to join to that of *France* and *Navarre*, as is seen in the Medals which are given at the Academy every Day that they assemble. He was also Protector of the Academy Royal of Painting and Sculpture, and of all Scholars, for whom he procur'd Favours from the King, and did 'em very considerable ones out of his own proper Fond.

There was not, of his time, any private Man who had a finer Library than his, always open to all Persons of Merit, who were desirous of seeing it, and much more of profiting by it. He had only two Daughters by *Magdalen Fabri* his Wife. The eldest, nam'd *Mary*, marry'd in her first Nuprials *Cesar du Cambout*, Marquis de *Coastlin*, Collonel of the *Swiss* and *Grisons*, Lieutenant-General of the King's Armies, and Governour of *Brest*, who was kill'd by a Musquet-shot at the Siege of *Ayre* in 1641, just upon the point of receiving the Batoon of Marshal of *France*, which the King had promis'd him : And in second Marriage, the Marquis de *Laval*, also Lieutenant-General of the King's Armies. The other Daughter, nam'd *Charlotte*, was mar-

70 *Illustrions Men of France,*

ry'd first to *Maximilien Francis de Bethune*, Duke of *Sully*, and afterwards to *Henry de Bourbon*, Duke of *Verneuil*.

He died at *St. Germain en Lay*, aged 84 Years, the 28th of *January* 1672, after having possess'd the Places of Keeper of the Seals, and of Chancellor, 39 Years save one Month. His Body was carry'd to the *Carmelites* of *Pontoise*, where *Jane Seguier*, his Sister, was Superior.

LOUIS

LOUIS THOMASSIN, Priest of the Oratory.

THE whole Life of Father *Thomassin* was so uniform, that at first it should seem his Eulogium might be made in few Words; for being put out to Board, in his Infancy, with the Fathers of the Oratory, where also he died, he employ'd himself in nothing but Prayer and Study: But the incredible stock of Knowledge which he acquir'd by Study, is so great, that if I undertook to make the detail thereof, as it would be in some sort necessary to give a just Idea of this excellent Man, I should very much exceed the bounds which I have prescrib'd to my self in these Elogies.

As soon as he had made familiar to himself the first Sciences that are taught, human Learning, Eloquence and Philosophy, he apply'd himself to teach 'em to others; wherein he not only succeeded in making excellent Scholars, but in perfecting himself in these Sciences. His Wit lively and profound, not being able to handle any Matter without making some new Discoveries therein. But as his Inclination and his Piety carry'd him solely to the Study of Divinity, he soon gave himself entirely to it, particularly to that which is call'd *Positive*, and which hath for its principal Object, Scripture, the Fa-

72 *Illustrious Men of France,*

thers, and the Councils. When Father *Petau* had publish'd his Book *Des Dogmes*, he fortify'd himself in the design, not only of going in the Steps of that learned Man, who had made the History thereof with all the Exactness and all the Knowledge of Antiquity which so glorious and so vast an Enterprize demands, but to enter, by his Reflexions, into the knowledge of Mysteries compris'd in those *Dogma's*. The first has the glory of having handled this important Subject like an excellent Historian; and the second, of having happily penetrated into what is contain'd the most hidden and most sublime in these Mysteries; above all, with respect to the Incarnation, where it would dazzle one to see the References, Concordances, Designs, Prospects, and other Miracles he discovers there. Towards the Year 1654, he taught Divinity to the Seminary of St. *Magloire*, and there began the Conferences upon the Fathers, upon History, and upon the Councils, which he continu'd to the Year 1668. To this Occupation succeeded some leisure, but a leisure always laborious, and never empty; for he was engag'd by great Prelates, who had a mighty Esteem for his Merit, and by the Superiours of the Oratory, to give to the Public the Works he had compos'd. His *Memoirs upon Grace*, and *Dissertations upon the Councils*, had already appear'd; they were follow'd by *Theological Dogma's*, whereof we have spoken; the same *Memoirs upon Grace*, but much augmented, *Books of Discipline*, and *divers Treatises upon Fasting, upon Holidays, upon the Divine Office, upon the Unity of the Church, upon Truth and Falshood, upon Alms, and the right use of temporal Goods*. There is observ'd in all these

these Works a happy and amazing Collection of sacred and prophane Learning; and when the Subject permits him, the Author is seen to go back with an incredible force and penetration into every thing the most sublime contain'd in the Philosophy of the *Platonics*. Little satisfy'd with the remarks he had made heretofore upon the prophane Authors, he read 'em over again, and then gave a method for reading and studying *Christian-wise* Philosophers, Historians, and Poets.

He admirably well dissolv'd that, which Superstition and Error have spread through their whole Works, from the Sentiments of Religion, and the Truths which the Light of Nature, Tradition of all Nations, Communication of Scriptures, and the Conversation of *Hebrews*, had furnish'd to 'em. The Wisdom, Moderation, and sound Piety which reign in all these Works, have made 'em admir'd by all the Nations of *Europe*; and the Nuncio's have given several times marks of Esteem which was made of 'em at *Rome*, by the Visits wherewith they honour'd their Author. Pope *Innocent XI.* express'd an inclination of making use of his Book of Discipline for the Government of the Church, and endeavour'd to draw him to *Rome*; but upon the proposition which was made of it to the King on the part of Cardinal *Cibo*, the answer was, *That such a Subject ought not to go out of the Kingdom.* This Answer gave Father *Thomas* one of the greatest Joys he ever had in his life: and, assuredly, if the Pope had made him Cardinal, as 'tis certain he testified several times he had such a design, he had suffer'd very much; for a private and retir'd Life was his whole delight; however,

74 *Illustrious Men of France,*

however, to shew his gratitude to the holy Father, he translated into *Latine* the three Tomes of Discipline, according to the desire of all foreign Countries. After this Translation, he resum'd the study of the *Hebrew* Tongue for many Years; persuaded that this Tongue is the Mother of all others. He compos'd, to prove it, an universal Glossary, where he derives 'em all from the *Hebrew*, as from their common source. This Glossary is now printed at the *Louvre*, and is the last of his Works.

Some short time after, his Strength diminish'd sensibly, and he saw himself oblig'd to renounce all sorts of Study in the least painful.

He made to God a Sacrifice of that State which was yet more edifying to the Seminary of *St. Magloire*, where he was, than all his Labours, and all his Lucubrations. His Consumption still increasing for near 3 Years together, so that his Strength and Speech failing him, he ceas'd to live the 24th of Dec. 1695. The Curate of *St. James's du Haut-pas*, near to *St. Magloire*, preach'd his Elogy the next Day after *Christmas*; where he declar'd what, till then, he was oblig'd to keep secret, *viz.* That Father *Thomasin* had given him, every Year, for the Poor, a moiety of the Pension of 1000 Livres he receiv'd from the Clergy. Altho' he was naturally Neat, he lov'd Poverty in his Habit, in his Furniture, and in every thing that regarded his own Person; and he would never be witness of the distinctions which the Dignity of some of his Relations gave 'em in the World; for he was of a Family remarkable, both in the Sword and Gown: There are reckon'd up 20 Presidents or Councillors of this Name in the Parliament of *Aix*.

His

during the Last Century. 75

His Life was always extreamly regular. He that saw him but one Day, might know after what manner he pass'd all the rest. After Prayer and Mass, he employ'd four Hours for his Morning Study, and three Hours after Dinner. He perform'd his Prayers always at the same Hours, and no Visit, without a pressing necessity, ever broke in upon his Exercises. The Innocence of his Life suffer'd him not to see any thing but *good* in every thing he look'd upon: In Books, in Authors, in Persons, in Communities, and in Orders. His Conversation was sweet, agreeable, instructive. Penetrated with Religion, which he lov'd sovereignly, he found it, or caus'd it to be found every where. Thoughts the most Christian sprung naturally in his *Entertainments*, as under his *Pen*. Whatever was most prophane in Authors, took an edifying sense in passing either by his Mouth, or through his Hands. Every thing shew'd that he carry'd *Jesus Christ* in the Heart, and that he sought nothing but the Glory of his Church. This turn of Mind so elevated and so Christian, join'd with a depth of Knowledge, almost without limits, made the peculiar Character of this excellent Man.

WILLIAM

WILLIAM du VAIR,
Keeper of the Seals of *France.*

WILLIAM *du Vair* was born at *Paris* in the Year 1556. He brought into the World, with the advantage of springing from an illustrious Family, all the necessary Talents for acquiring Glory, and for making to himself considerable Establishments. He had a great deal of fineness and vivacity in Wit, a great deal of solidity in Judgment; and above all, an admirable Moderation, whereby making himself always master of himself, he arriv'd also to make himself Master of the Spirit of others. He was, at first, Councillor in the Parliament of *Paris*, then Master of Requests and Intendant at *Marseilles*, and soon after Councillor of State. *Henry IV.* having more and more discover'd his Merit and Ability to manage the greatest Affairs, sent him Ambassador into *England*.

Returning from his Embassy, which was to his Glory and the State's Benefit, his Majesty gave him the Place of first President of the Parliament of *Provence*, which he exercis'd 20 Years, with applause of the whole Provinces. *Louis XIII.* inform'd of his Merit, believ'd he cou'd not give the Seals to a Person who could render him better Services in a Place which set him

him at the Head of Justice, and of all the great Affairs of the Kingdom, so gave 'em him with a very honourable Clause in his Breviate, which was to empower him to preside in all the sovereign Companies of the Kingdom, to enjoy all the Honours attributed to the Office of Chancellor, and to be invested therewith, if it came vacant, without having occasion for new Letters.

He kept up his Rank and Dignity in the Council, against Dukes and Peers, with an unparallell'd Firmness and presence of Mind, and he rather chose to resign the Seals, than to humour Marshal *d'Ancre*, who abus'd his favour. Scarce had he surrendred them, but his Majesty, sensible of the want of him, commanded him to resume 'em. Upon occasion of this Event, there was rais'd a Question among the *Beaux-Esprits* of that time, no less honourable for him than difficult to resolve. It was to know, which of the three Days of his Life ought to be reckon'd the finest. *That*, when his Merit induc'd the King to send for him from the bottom of the Country, to give him the Seals? *That*, when his inflexible Probity caus'd him to surrender them? Or, in fine, *That*, wherein this same Merit and this same Probity did oblige the King to restore 'em to him?

His Genius, of a prodigious amplitude, found it self capable of Governing also the Diocese of *Lisieux*, the Bishoprick whereof was given him three Years before his death. As his Piety equall'd and even surpass'd all his other Virtues, he conducted no less well the Affairs of the Church, than those of the State.

If the manner of Governing himself in the different Employments of his Life, be an incontestable

78 *Illustrions Men of France,*

ble proof of the goodness and strength of his Brain, his Writings bear no less a testimony thereof, and raise his Merit yet infinitely higher. He lov'd the *Belles Lettres* in their whole extent, but his principal Passion was for Eloquence. He excell'd therein, beyond all his Competitors, as may be seen in the Collection of his Works; which compose a very great Volume. There are found Treatises of Christian Philosophy, wherein it is difficult to determine what one ought to admire the most, either the good Sense, or the Piety, or the Eloquence. You read there an infinity of Harangues upon all Subjects, the variety whereof shews a remarkable facility and copiousness of Genius. You also find there Translations of several Speeches of *Demosthenes* and *Cicero*, the beauty whereof is scarce inferiour to that of their Originals. He had a Politeness which he ow'd to no body but himself, and which hath been as the *Aurora* of that which at this Day shines in the Pulpit, in the Bar, and in all the Works of our best Authors. The Books of that time are so cram'd with Citations, that there is hardly seen any Ground-work in 'em. Those who manag'd thus, thought to imitate the Ancients, not considering that the Ancients themselves hardly ever used Citations. Monsieur *du Vair*, (who knew that to imitate an Author, is not to report what he hath said, but to say things in the manner he hath said them) hath perfectly imitated the Ancients in speaking of his own Head as they have from theirs, and in applying most of their Thoughts, but after having render'd 'em proper by Meditation, without using their very Words.

Ho

during the Last Century. 79

He died in 1621, at *Toniens* in *Agenois*, where he follow'd the King in the Siege of *Clerac*. His Body was carry'd to the *Bernardines* of *Paris*, where is teen this Epitaph, made by himself: *Guillelmus du Vair Episcopus Lexoviensis, Francie Procancellarius hic expellat Resurrectionem Et Misericordiam.* The President *de Gramond*, who hath made his Elegy, hath describ'd this great Man in terms so natural and so magnificent, that I cannot forbear reporting them. *Erat Majestate Venerabilis qualis Roma olim vidit Et mirata est, Fabricios, Cincinnatos, aut Fabios, Sagax, Severus, Sapiens, Oratorum sui temporis Princeps, qui locutionem Gallicam aut restituit decori suo aut decorem primus in eam inuexit.*

The President Jeannin.

HERE'S a Man who was beholding to none but himself for his whole Advancement. Of a plain Advocate in the Parliament of *Burgundy*, he mounted to the highest Offices in the Gown, and was made Minister to one of the greatest Kings of the Earth, by the single force of his Merit. When he was yet but an Advocate, a certain private Gentleman, very Rich, who had heard him discourse touching the precedence which *Beaune* pretended over *Autun* in the States, was so charm'd with the solidity of his Reasons, and the energy of his Discourse, that he resolv'd to have him for his Son-in-Law, if there was any proportion in their Fortunes. To this end, going to see him, and having ask'd him, what his Estate was, and where, &c. he carried his Hand to his Head, and afterwards shew'd him some Books upon his Desk: *Behold my Estate*, says he, *behold all my Fortune*. The sequel of his Life made appear, that he shew'd him more Goods, than if he had produc'd to him a great number of Purchase-Deeds, and many Coffers full of Riches. The Estates of *Burgundy* chose him to have care of the Affairs of the Province, and found, by the manner of his Management, they had made a right good Choice.

When

When orders came to *Dijon* for committing upon *St. Bartholomews-day* the same Massacre that was done at *Paris*, and in most of the Cities of the Kingdom, he resisted it with all his might, protesting 'it was not possible his Majesty should persist in a resolution so cruel, and so contrary to Ends which the false Politics of his Minister had suggested to him. A Courier arriv'd some Days after, to forbid the Murthers which had been commanded.

He was nominated, some time after, Governour of the Chancery of *Burgundy*. This Office was follow'd by that of Councillor in Parliament, which the King reviv'd in his favour, and which cost him nothing, no more than that of President *au Mortier*, and all the others that he possess'd.

It is true, that not perceiving, at the time the *League* first began, that this Conspiracy aim'd at nothing but to take the Crown from the lawful Prince, and that suffering himself to be dazzled with the Protections it made, *of having only in view the Maintenance of the Catholic Religion*, for which he had a very ardent Zeal, he embrac'd this unhappy Party with his whole power; but it may be said, that this Step, so fatal for him in appearance, was the source of his good Fortune, and also the whole Kingdom's. It was a stroke of Providence, which would have a Man of Honesty and Spirit to engage himself in that unjust Faction, to discover the Malice of it, and afterwards to become the principal Instrument of its Ruin. He was sent into *Spain* by the Duke of *Meyen*, to whom he had devoted himself, to treat with *Philip II.* and there he observ'd two things: The Designs

82 *Illustrious Men of France,*

of him that sent him; and, the Pretension of the Prince to whom he was sent. He remark'd that the King of *Spain* holding the Map of *France* in his Hand, spoke of nothing but the fine Provinces and the good Cities which he was going to take possession of, without saying one word of Religion, or of those who call'd themselves its Protectors. At his return, he disabus'd the Duke of *Mayen*, and convinc'd him, that the Interest of the Church was only a Cover which *Spain* serv'd it self of, to remove *France* from its lawful Sovereign.

So soon as the Battel of *Fontaine-François* had given the last blow to the dying League and reduc'd its Chief to his Duty, the King resolv'd to gain the President *Jeannin*, well knowing he should have a whole Council in that single Head. When, after several Caresses, and many marks of Esteem, his Majesty made him understand he wish'd to put him in his Council; he told the King, 'it was not just that his Majesty should prefer an old Leaguer before so many illustrious Personages, whose Fidelity had never been suspected. But his Majesty answer'd him 'That he was well assur'd, that he who had been faithful to a Duke, would not fail a King, and at the same time gave him the Office of first President in the Parliament of *Burgundy*, upon condition, that he should immediately treat of it with another, because he would have him always near his Person. He had, by this means the satisfaction of giving a Head to the Parliament of the Province where he was born, and of causing an augmentation in the Salary of Councillors of the same Parliament by 500 Livres, a true Token of the Affection he had for him

his Country, and of *that* his Master had for him: From that Moment, he always continu'd near to *Henry the Great*, and had the principal share in his Confidence. There was no Reconciliation to make; no Differences to be regulated in Court, whereof he was not the Arbitrator, no important Affairs to manage out of the Kingdom; whereof he furnish'd not the Dispatches, and which he brought not to an happy issue.

His Majesty committed to him the Negotiation between the *Hollanders* and the King of *Spain*, the most difficult, perhaps, that ever was. He went through it, and carry'd off a general Esteem on all sides.

Scaliger, who was witness of his Prudence, which he could not too much exalt; and *Barneveld*, one of the best Heads of that time, protest-
ed they always went from him *better Men*, and *more inform'd*; and Cardinal *Bentivoglio* said, That having heard him speak one Day in the Council, he did it with so much Vigour, and so much Authority, *that it seem'd to him as if all the Majesty of the King breathed upon his Countenance*. The King complaining once to his Ministers, that one of 'em had reveal'd a Secret, he added these Words, taking the President *Jeannin* by the Hand; *I answer for this good Man: The rest of you must examine your selves*.

The King bid him, a little before his Death, provide himself of a good Pad, to follow him in all the Enterprizes he had propos'd to himself, and which no body every knew but by pure conjectures. The Queen-Mother repos'd upon him the greatest Affairs of the Kingdom, and trusted him with the whole Administration of the Exchequer, which he manag'd with a Pu-

84 *Illustrious Men of France,*

rity, whereof the small Estate he left his Family is a very convincing proof. King *Henry IV.* who blam'd himself for not having gratify'd him enough, said on several occasions, 'He was kind 'to some of his Subjects, to hide their Malice; 'but as for the President *Jeannin*, he had always 'said good of him, without doing him any.

He died the 21st of *October* 1622, aged 82 Years. Cardinal *Richelieu* used to say, 'That he 'no where met with better Instruction, than in 'the Memoirs and Negotiations of this great 'Man: And these were his most constant Reading in his retreat at *Avignon*.

PAUL

PAUL PHELYPEAUX, Secretary of State.

PAUL Phelypeaux, Lord of Pontchartrain, was born at Blois in the Year 1569. His Ancestors have appear'd in considerable Posts from the Year 1360. Louis, 2d Son of John, King of France, who had for Appanage the Duchy of Anjou, made John Phelypeaux his Intendant for the County of Beaufort, and gave him the Office of Intendant of the Molds and Levys of Anjou, a Place, at that time, very considerable. His Children were honour'd with the same Employments under Louis II. and under René his Son, both Dukes of Anjou, and Kings of Sicily.

He of whom we speak, came into the World with such a Brain, that the force and vivacity thereof acquir'd him, in a short time, all that which ordinarily costs great pains to instruct Youth in for many Years, and made him capable almost as soon as he got out of his Infancy, of any Employment.

He was but 14 Years old, when he was provided of the Place of Secretary in Ordinary of the King's Chamber, by Letters-Patents registred in the Chamber of Accounts; and at 19, he labour'd under Monsieur Revol upon the most important Affairs of the Kingdom. Wherein he

86 *Illustrious Men of France,*

shew'd so much Capacity, that three Years after, the King gave him Letters, importing permission to *sign in the Treasury*, a mark of a Confidence and Distinction so singular, that it would be difficult to find the like example. This Favour was attended with the gift of an Office of King's Secretary of the ancient College; his Majesty taking pleasure in shewing, by frequent Favours, the satisfaction he receiv'd from his Services.

Monf. *de Villeroy* was no sooner re-establish'd in his Office of Secretary of State, by the death of Monf. *de Revol*, but he would have him for his Associate in his toil. His easie manner of dispatching Affairs the most important and most difficult, led the King to nominate him in 1600, to the Secretaryship of the Orders of the Queen *Mary de Medicis*.

The Services he did that Princess were so agreeable to her, that she begg'd the King, with importunity, to give him the Place of Secretary of State, which Monsieur *Forget* had leave to lay down, and that he might be prefer'd before Monsieur *de Preaux*, his Competitor.

The King made no difficulty of yielding to the desires of the Queen, altho' Monf. *de Preaux* was a Man of great Merit; and when his Majesty conferr'd the Place upon Monsieur *de Pontchartrain*, he us'd these words, with joy in his Countenance, That he believ'd he could not fill it with a Person more Worthy, more Faithful, nor more Capable.

The King dying soon after; the Queen, who became Mistress of all Affairs, referr'd great part thereof to the Care and Conduct of Monsieur *de Pontchartrain*, and particularly the Affairs of
those

those of the pretended Reform'd Religion, which at that time were the most momentous of the Kingdom.

They were not of his *Province*; but his Piety and Zeal for Religion made him desirous of them, and to quit without pain upon *that* score, the Affairs of the War, tho' much more illustrious. At that time the Prince of *Condé*, chagrin'd at the double Marriage which was transacting between the Crowns of *France* and *Spain*, retir'd from Court, and it being of great consequence, to prevent him from setting himself at the Head of the Malecontents, the King (*Louis XIII.*) appointed Monsieur *de Pontchartrain* to go to *Comcy*, to negotiate the return of that Prince. All that Wit, Address, Eloquence could do, he employ'd upon this occasion, and put the Prince in the disposition of returning entirely into his Devoirs; which he accordingly did a short time after.

Then the King sent him to the Conference of *Loudun*, where for three Months that it lasted, he disentangled the different Interests of all the Pretenders that appear'd there. He battel'd vigorously all the Demands of the Religionaries, and reduc'd 'em at last to the Terms of the Edicts. He knew so happily how to incline the Minds of People to Moderation and Obedience, that one may say he was the principal Instrument of the Peace, which he had the Glory of concluding and signing. Having follow'd the King to the Siege of *Montauban*, he fell sick, and causing himself to be carry'd to *Castel-Sarasin*, he died there the 21st of *October* 1621, aged 52 Years. *Anne Beauharnois*, his Wife, Daughter of *Francis Beauharnois*, *Sieur de Miramion*, had his

88 *Illustrious Men of France,*

Corps brought to *Paris* to the Church of *S. Germain l'Auxerrois*, his Parish, and rais'd a Tomb for him in the Chapel where he is bury'd.

The Queen, in acknowledgment of his Services, preserv'd to his Son his Place of Secretary of State, and was pleas'd that Monsieur *Phelypeaux de la Vrilliere*, Brother of the deceased, should have the executing is, until that this Pupil was of Age to officiate. Monsieur *de la Vrilliere* so well fulfill'd all the Devoirs thereof, that it was continu'd to him, and after him to his Descendants.

He left a Son and three Daughters ; and 'tis observ'd that his Family hath given to *France* seven Secretaries of State in the space of fourscore Years, or thereabouts.

JOHN

JOHN-BAPTISTE COLBERT,

Minister and Secretary of State.

CARDINAL *Mazarine*, when he was dying, told the King, ' That he was infinitely ' bounden to his Majesty ; but that in giving to ' his Majesty *Monf. Colbert*, to serve him in his ' place, he believ'd he should make return of all ' the Favours he had receiv'd from him. The Cardinal knew perfectly well what he said, having seen after what manner *Monsieur Colbert* had fix'd his Affairs, from the time he had committed the Conduct thereof to him. In 1661, the King call'd him into his Council, and gave him the whole Administration of his Treasury, with the Office of Controller-General, that of Superintendent being suppress'd. This Administration had been till then involv'd in an impenetrable Obscurity, and the most skilful of those who had concern'd themselves therein, could never arrive at the clearing up the Chaos thereof. He apply'd himself thereunto with so much assiduity and success, that this same Treasury is now become the clearest, best regulated Office in the Kingdom. The King observing in this Minister a Genius superiour to all the Affairs wherewith he was charg'd, altho' the most difficult,

90 *Illustrious Men of France,*

ficult, added to him new Employments, by making him Superintendant of his Buildings.

He began the exercise of this Office in the Year 1664; and the first thing that he propos'd to himself, was, to finish the *Louvre*, and especially to build the principal Front of it. He had Draughts made of it by all the able Architects of *France* and *Italy*; and having conceiv'd a great opinion of the Cavalier *Bernino*, he sent for him into *France*.

However, the design of this famous Architect, upon which they began to cast some Foundations, was not follow'd, and there was another presented much Finer, and more Magnificent, which was executed. The love this Great Minister had for the fine Arts, Architecture, Painting, and Sculpture, and his good Taste, which made him know all their Beauties, carry'd them in some sort to their utmost Perfection during the time of his Superintendence: But as he was persuaded that the curious Works of the Brain do more honour to States and Princes than the most stately Buildings, he prevail'd upon his Majesty to make Gratifications to Men of Letters, not only of the Kingdom, but of all *Europe*. These Gratifications amounted every Year to very great Sums, and there was no Scholar of distinguish'd Merit, either in Eloquence, Poetry, or the Mathematics, however remote he was from *France*, but these Favours were found for him at Mr. *Colbert's* by Bills of Exchange.

Having also consider'd, that there continually presented, without ceasing, a thousand things to be done for the King's Glory, and which demanded to be done with Wit, as *Medals*, *Devices*, *Inscriptions*, and designs of divers public
Monu-

Monuments; he form'd in the Year 63, a little *Academy* to labour at these sort of Works.

In 1666, the King having order'd him to form the Royal Academy of Sciences, he compos'd it of the ablest Men he could find in the Kingdom, and in foreign Countries, and he obtain'd them from the King considerable Pensions. He was minded that they should apply themselves particularly to Astronomy, Geometry, Physick and Chymistry. For the operations of this last Science, he caus'd to be built a great Laboratory in the King's Library, the place where this Academy held, and still holds its Assemblies: And for Astronomical Observations, he propos'd to his Majesty the building that fine Observatory, which has nothing like it, as well for its Beauty, Convenience, and Grandeur, as for the quantity and excellence of Mathematical Instruments wherewith it is furnish'd. The *Marine*, which serves so usefully to the increase of Power and Reputation in great States, was also committed to his care by the King, in making him Secretary of State. This Minister, the most indefatigable and laborious that ever was, and above all the most attentive to take right the Intentions of his Master, *first and sole Author of all the great things which his Ministers have executed*, caus'd to be built out of hand an incredible number of Vessels and of Gallies, and at the same time Arsenals at *Rochfort, Toulon, Brest, Marseilles, Havre*, and *Dunkirk*; so that *France*, which was without Maritime Forces, has made her self formidable upon Sea to all the Nations of the World. He began and saw finish'd the Canal of Communication of the Seas, the only Work in the World of that nature which hath
been

92 *Illustrious Men of France,*

been carry'd on to an happy conclusion. He re-establish'd Commerce through all *France*, and form'd Companies for Voyages of a long course in the two *Indies*. He gave very powerful protection to the *French* Colonies of *America*, and set up a great number of Manufactures, to employ the Subjects of the King, and to make 'em get the Money which used to pass into foreign Countries.

Amidst so many different and great Occupations, he found time for the Devoirs of his Family and Education of his Children, to which he apply'd himself with more care than any private Man, who had only *that* to mind. In fine, he went through the performance of things which had appear'd impossible to all those who have preceded him, by finding in *France* three times more of Soldierly than she ever had before both for Sea and Land, by providing Funds for supporting the Expences of Fortifications upon all the Frontiers, the Buildings and magnificent Furniture in all the places of Royal Residence, the splendor of the King's Household, and all the other Expences of the State.

He died at *Paris* the 6th of *September* 1683, aged 64 Years, and was interr'd at *S. Eustache*, where his Family have erected him a very fine *Mausoleum*.

He was of the *French* Academy, and took pleasure in making the finest Library of Books, Printed and Manuscript, that any particular Man ever had in *Europe*. He left nine Children, six Sons and three Daughters, which he had by *Mary Charron*, Daughter of *James Charron*, Governour and Bailly of *Blois*, and of *Mary Begon*. His eldest Son was Minister and Secretary

during the Last Century. 93

tary of State like him, the second is Archbishop of *Rouen*; the third was Coll. of the Regiment of *Champagne*, *Bailli*, and *Grand Croix*, of the Order of *Maltha*, and was kill'd before *Wallcour*; the 4th is Great Master of the Ceremonies of *France*, and Collonel of the same Regiment of *Champagne*; the 5th is *Guidon* of the *Scotch Gen-d'armerie*; and the last of all, who was call'd Count *de Seaux*, died in the King's Service at the Battel of *Fleurus*, at the Head of the same Regiment of *Champagne*. The three Daughters marry'd the Dukes, *Chevreuse*, *Beauvillier*, and *Mortemar*.

William

WILL^m. de LAMOIGNON,
First President.

WILLIAM *de Lamoignon*, who hath so deservedly fill'd the place of first President in the Parliament of *Paris*, came into the World the 20th of *October* 1617, with all the good and happy Qualities can be wish'd in a Child. He was beautiful, well made, and clean in all the Exercises of the Body, wherein he excell'd wonderfully ; but above all, of a Wit which met with nothing in the study of the *Belles Lettres*, Philosophy, and the Law, which he carry'd not off with a facility and rapidity inconceivable. He made therein so great a progress, that he was receiv'd Councillor in the Parliament of *Paris* at the Age of 18, with an universal applause. It was no favour done to his Age ; and it is certain, that the most ancient of that illustrious Body had scarce any other advantage over him, but that of Years and Experience. This Prodigy would not have appear'd natural, if it had not been customary to see the like in his Family ; which for above these 400 Years, has given such a series of great Personages, that it would be more astonishing to see in it an ordinary Man, than to find a great amassment of Talents and of Virtues.

William

during the Last Century. 95

William de Lamoignon, Lord of *Pomey*, liv'd in the *Nivernois* before the Reign of *S. Louis*. *Charles de Lamoignon*, *Sieur de Baille*, was the first that took the Gown: He came to settle at *Paris*, and having made himself admir'd at the Bar, was Councillor of Parliament, afterwards Master of Requests, and since Councillor of State. He died in the Year 1573; and the King who had receiv'd great Services from him, did him the honour to visit him several times during his Sickness. His Son, *Christian de Lamoignon*, a Man very commendable for his Sufficiency and Piety, was President *au Mortier* of the Parliament of *Paris*, and Father of *William de Lamoignon*, whose Elogium we are making.

After being nine Years in the Parliament, he was Master of Requests, and the King appointed him Commissary to the States of *Bretagne*, where he reconcil'd the Interests of the Country to those of the Court, which got him very great Reputation. In the Year 1658, his Majesty gave him the Place of first President, which he exercis'd the rest of his Life, with an universal applause; and when he thank'd Cardinal *Mazarine* for befriending him to the King upon this occasion, he receiv'd for answer: *Sir, If the King could ha' found in his Realm a Worthier Man than your self, he would not have given you that Place.*

No body ever possess'd in a greater measure the Qualities necessary to the Places he was employ'd in. He had a profound knowledge of all Law, a Justice and Equity always equal, and above all, an Affability which extended even to the Consolation of those who lost their Causes, charm'd as they were of having been receiv'd

96 *Illustrious Men of France,*

receiv'd and heard so favourably by such a Magistrate. He join'd to these great Qualities, essential to his Profession, an extream love for the *Belles Lettres*, which he possess'd, all of 'em, fundamentally and equally. There was held at his House, every Week, a Meeting of the most Ingenious Men in all sorts of Sciences. Altho' his Erudition was universal, the *strength* of his Knowledge lay particularly in Church Affairs, her Discipline and History; and the Rights of both the Ecclesiastical and Secular Power:

The King sent him all the Books compos'd by the Academy of Sciences, and which comprehend every thing that's most curious in the Mathematics, in Physic, in Chymistry, and in all the most abstracted and delicate Learning. He took pleasure in running over all these Books with *him* who presented them to him; and 'twas apparent, from the manner of his speaking upon all the Matters treated of in these Books, that he had as perfect a knowledge thereof, as the Authors: It seem'd, as if he had assisted at all their Assemblies, and had bestow'd his whole time upon each of the Sciences therein spoken of. Having look'd afterwards upon the Book of the *Caroufel* of the Year 1662, and that of the *Tableaux* and *Figures* of the King's Cabinet, which accompany'd those of the Academy of Sciences, he shew'd, that he no less understood the Art of managing Horses, than if he had done nothing else but rid the great Horse; and that he had as just a discernment upon the beauty and manner of *Tableaux*, (whereof he nam'd the Masters with the first glance of his Eye) as if he had frequented, his whole life-time, the Cabinets of the Curious. There was in him a Fond of Piety
and

during the Last Century. 97

and Virtue, which were no less *amiable*, than the Lights of his Mind were *admirable*.

He died the 10th of *December* 1677, aged 60 Years and 2 Months. He is bury'd at the *Cor-deliers*. His Heart was carry'd to *S. Leu-S-Gilles*, near Madam his Mother. He hath left 2 Children of very great Merit; one Advocate-General, the other Master of Requests, Intendant in *Languedoc*, and Counsellor of State in Ordinary. There hath not been any Magistrate in this Age more universally Knowing, nor who hath had more kindness and cordiality for the Learned of all kinds.

H

President

President de Thou.

THE Family of *Monf. de Thou*, is one of the illustrious Families of the Gown. The Person whose Elogium we are making, had collected, as by right of Succession, all the good Qualities of his Ancestors, the rectitude of Soul, the love of Justice, and every thing that forms a consummate Probity, Courage, Discretion, and Knowledge ; it seem'd even as if he had receiv'd them upon coudition to carry 'em to an higher degree of perfection, *so much pains did he take to make himself one of the First Men of his Age.* He was born at *Paris* in the Year 1552 ; and made his Studies in the Universities of *Paris* and of *Orleans*. After enriching himself there with the knowledge of Human Learning and the Law, he travell'd into *Italy, Flanders, and Germany*, where he inform'd himself throughly of the Manners, Customs, Interests of Princes, and of the Geography of all those different Countries ; Studies which were of wonderful service to him, not only for all the great Negotiations wherein he was employ'd ; but for finishing so gloriously and so usefully as he did afterwards, the admirable History he hath left us.

Upon his return from Travel, he was made Counsellor and Master of Requests, and a short time after President *au Mortier*. His different Offices gave him opportunity of exhibiting the
Talents

Talents he had receiv'd from Nature, and which he had cultivated by a continual Study. As soon as the Battel of the Barricades had oblig'd the King (*Henry III.*) to leave *Paris*, he immediately repair'd to his Majesty, who having made use of his Counsels some time, sent him into several foreign Countries upon divers Negotiations. When he was at *Venice*, and there heard of the unfortunate death of the King, he went immediately and waited upon *Henry IV.* who receiv'd him with all the esteem and kindness imaginable, and admitted him into all his most secret Councils. And as one of the chief Talents of this great Man was to manage People's Minds by the force of his Eloquence, *Natural* and *Acquir'd*, and to turn them as he pleas'd, his Majesty made use of them in several very important Affairs. He was employ'd in the Conference of *Saragunes*, and to treat with the Deputies of Duke *de Mer-cœur*.

The King gave him the Place of Keeper of his Library, vacant by the death of the great *Amiot*, Translator of *Plutarch*. This illustrious Library, the finest in the World, next to that of the *Vatican*, fell not into Hands less worthy, nor receiv'd less honour from him, than it did to him. It became more than ever, the resort of all the Men of Learning and Virtue; and it was particularly under his conduct, it grew recommendable; as much by the *living*, who confer'd there of all kinds of Sciences; as by *dead Authors*, which they went to consult.

He was nominated among the Commissioners of the famous Conference of *Fontainebleau*, where the Cardinal *du Perron* alone confounded *du*

100 *Illustrious Men of France,*

Plessis Mornay, supported by a dozen Ministers the most eminent of that time.

During the Regency of the Queen (*Mary de Medicis*) he was one of the General Directors of the Treasury, where his Sufficiency and Integrity appear'd no less than in the exercise of his Offices of Judicature. These different Employes, capable of taking up the whole attention of the most able, hinder'd him not from finding time for composing the greatest Body of History we have; containing in 138 Books, all that hath pass'd, not only in all *France*, but throughout *Europe*, from the Year 1543, to 1608, with an (almost) unparallel'd Exactness and Fidelity. He never either disguis'd or suppress'd the Truth; a noble and generous Boldness, for which he was prais'd by all the great Men of his time, and particularly by *Papyre Masson*, who used to say, *That it was not possible for an unsincere Historian to go far in Posterity*. This Work is worthy of the Ancients, and perhaps would surpass a great part of what the ancient *Romans* have left us in point of History, if he had not too much affected to resemble them. For this affectation of speaking their Tongue well, was so extravagant, as to make him disfigure all the proper Names of Men, of Towns, of Countries, and Things whereof he speaks, by translating them into *Latine* after so strange a manner, that there was a necessity of adding a Dictionary at the end of his History, where all the proper Names of Men, Cities, Countries, &c. therein contain'd, are translated into *French*; a help not only useful, but necessary to those who would have a perfect understanding of his History. Such was the bewitchedness

during the Last Century. 101

witchedness of his time, even to that excess, that instead of giving to the greatest part of Children that were baptized, Names of the Apostles, of the Martyrs, or Confessors of the Church, they gave 'em the Names of prophane History, and even of fabulous, as *Nestor*, *Achilles*, *Hercules*, &c.

He died the 17th of *May* 1617, aged Sixty four Years. 'Tis he that hath caus'd to be rais'd in the Church of *St. Andrew le Bow*, the magnificent Monument and Inscriptions that are seen there, to the Memory of his Father.

H 3

HIEROME

HIEROME BIGNON,

Advocat-General.

HIEROME *Bignon* was born in 1590, with all the Dispositions which a happy Nature can give; and his Father, who took upon himself to instruct him, taught him the Tongues, Human Learning, Eloquence, Philosophy, Mathematics, History, Law, and Divinity, without ever sending him to a College.

He was brought up Child of Honour to the late King *Louis XIII.* who esteem'd him so much, that when he happen'd to absent himself from Court, he immediately sent to look for him, there being no Conversation which pleas'd him so much as his.

At the Age of ten, he gave the Public, *The Description of the holy Land*; at thirteen, *The Roman Antiquities*; with *A Treatise of Law*; and another, *Of the manner of choosing Popes*. At eighteen, he had printed *A Treatise of the Precedence of the Kings of France before other Kings*; to refute the Book of a Spaniard, printed five or six Years before, *Of the Dignity of the Kings of Spain*.

Thus was he regarded in the first Years of his Youth, as one of the most Learned, most Valuable Men of his Age. He gave, at the Age of 23 Years, *Notes upon the Formulae of Marculphus,*

phus, so full of Erudition, Wit, and good Sense, that they were, and still are, the Admiration of all the Learned. Afterwards he dedicated to *Henry the Great*, *A Treatise of the Excellence of the Kings and Kingdom of France*, which was but as a Sketch of a greater Design, begun by the King's command, but interrupted by the death of that Great Monarch. He was not ignorant of any of the learned Tongues, nor almost of any thing that hath been written upon any Science whatever.

He made his principal Study of the Law Civil and Canon, whereof it may be said he drew forth all the Secrets, and that he himself became, as it were, an inexhaustible Spring thereof: For, whatever was the subject of Examination in his admirable Pleadings, (which were while he liv'd the most solid Instruction, not only of the young Barristers, but of the Seniors, and even of the Judges) there was nothing fine nor curious which he *reported* not; so that if there was any thing to be found fault with in this great Personage, it is, that he furnish'd so many Reasons on both sides, that he often left the Judges in suspense which Party to take, *so dazzled were they by the force of his Light*.

He began to appear and to give proofs of his capacity in the profession of a simple Advocate, and he continu'd to make himself known in that of Advocat-General of the Great Council, where his Reputation increas'd still after such manner, that the King gave him the Place of Advocat-General in Parliament, vacant by the death of the illustrious *M. Servin* in 1641. He resign'd this Place to *M. Briquet*, his Son-in-Law, a Man of singular Merit; and at the same time the King

104 *Illustrious Men of France,*

made him Councillor of State; but M. *Briquet* dying four Years after, he resum'd the Place of Advocat-General, in the Function whereof he died in *April* 1656, after having acquir'd a Reputation which will never die.

He has left two Children; one, who after having fill'd worthily the same Place of Advocate-General for several Years, is now Councillor of State; and the other, first President of the Great Council. They have caused to be reprinted his *Remarks upon Marculphus*, with very considerable Augmentations. This Work is in the Library of the Fathers of the Edition of *Cologne*, and the *Sieur Baluze* hath it reprinted in 1677, with *The Capitularies of our Kings*. He had the design of giving Notes upon *The History of Gregory de Tours*, and *An History of the Origin of French Law*; but these Works whereof only some beginnings were found after his death, could not be finish'd because of the continual application which he gave to the execution of his Places; wherein he not only shew'd an incredible depth of Learning, but a Fund yet more amazing of Goodness, of Probity, of Tenderness of Conscience, of Humility, and of Simplicity; Virtues so much the more admirable, as they were join'd to every thing that could inspire Pride and Vanity.

Louis XIII. gave him in 1642, a particular mark of his Esteem, by honouring him with the Place of Great Master of his Library, a Place which hath always been possess'd by Persons most illustrious in Letters; but which never was possess'd by a Man more worthy of it.

Nicolas

Nicolas Claude Fabri de Peiresc.

THE Race of the *Fabri*, or *Fabricians*, is originally of *Pise* in *Italy*, and pass'd into *Provence*, in the time of *S. Louis*, by the means of *Hugh Fabri*, Kt. who having follow'd him in the holy War, came upon his return to *Hieres*, where he settled, and had Children famous both in the Sword and the Gown. Chancellor *Seguier* Monsieur *de Pampadour*, Governour of *Limousin*, took both of 'em Alliance in this Family. The Person of whom we speak, was Son of *Renaud Fabri*, and of *Margarct Bompar*, who is said to have been so beautiful, that *Q. Catherine of Medicis*, when she pass'd by *Aix*, and was visited by the Ladies of Quality of that City, Kiss'd her because of her Beauty; an Honour she did not do to any other of the Ladies.

It is difficult to find a time when the Person (our present subject) was a Child; for in the first Years of his Life, the desire of Learning, which was always very strong in him, made him despise all the Sports and Amusements of Childhood; and he took no pleasure, but in listening to what was told him either Useful or Curious. Wisdom came to him so early, that at the Age of 9 or 10, he tutor'd his younger Brother, who study'd in the same College, and who look'd upon him

106 *Illustrious Men of France,*

him and hearken'd to him as his Father and Preceptor. At his leaving the College, they gave him Masters to teach him to Ride, to Fence, and to Dance; but as his whole Inclination was turn'd to Letters, he never did his Exercises but in presence of his Masters, employing the rest of his time either in Reading or in Extracting Books, or in Composing. He set himself then to the study of Medals, of Inscriptions, of Tombs, and other Monuments; and, in fine, of every thing which could afford an exact and particular knowledge of Antiquity. In a short time, he surpass'd the most Able in that Science, and made a considerable store of such things as exercise and nourish with pleasure this laudable Curiosity.

He study'd afterwards the Law under the best Masters of that time. And because it would be too long to report all the kinds of Study whereto he apply'd, I shall content my self to say, That there is no sort of Literature whereto he did not devote himself, and which he hath not in some manner exhausted; that there is scarce any Library in *Europe*, which he did not see and examine; no Men of Learning, whom he did not know, and to whom he was not beneficial, in communicating to them, either his Knowledge, or his Books, or his Medals, or even his Purse; and if he hath receiv'd some good Offices from them, he fail'd not to return them with interest. His House was a kind of Academy, not only because of the great number of Men of Letters who came to see him; but only to consider it with regard to his Domesticks, who knew all of 'em something with distinction, even to the Lacquys, whereof the least could serve as a Reader upon occasion; and had the Ingenuity to Bind Books,

Books, and to Bind 'em with a singular neatness.

He had in the number of his Friends *Baptiste de la Porte*, most profound in the knowledge of the deepest Secrets of Nature, of whom he learnt every thing that he knew the most curious in those sort of Sciences. He convers'd with (in particular) the excellent Painter, *Rubens*, upon the knowledge of Medals, and upon his Art of Painting, whereof he knew all the Beauties, as also of most other Arts. He liv'd a long time with the excellent Monsieur *du Vair*, first President of the Parliament of *Aix*, where he was Counsellor, and join'd himself to him in so strict a Friendship, that when the King had given the Seals to Monsieur *du Vair*, he follow'd him to *Paris*, where he never made any other use of his interest with him, but for the service of his Friends, or to procure himself an easier entrance into the Libraries and Cabinets, where he hop'd to be able to satisfy his curiosity, Monsieur *du Vair*, who imparted to him his greatest Secrets, and took his Advice upon the most important Affairs of State, could never get him to accept of any Favour or Kindness of all those he offer'd him, but one very small Benefice.

After the death of Monsieur *du Vair*, who left him Heir of all his Medals, he return'd to *Aix* to revisit his ancient Library. There with his Brother *Palamede Fabri* Sieur de *Valane*, he continu'd his Commerce of Letters and Curiosities, not only with all the old World, (which did not suffice to satisfy him) but with all the New; from whence was brought him, without ceasing, the marvellous Productions both of Art and Nature.

He

108 *Illustrious Men of France,*

He died in *June* 1637, aged 57 Years. He was of the celebrated Academy of *Humorists* of *Rome*, who render'd him the same Honours which are done to the principal Officers of that Academy, altho' he was but a plain Academic, *his Merit prevailing upon the Custom*. The Hall was hung with Black, and his *Buste* was set in an eminent place. *James Bouchard Parisian*, and of that Academy, made his Funeral Oration in *Latin*, a Piece of great Eloquence, in the middle of an infinite crowd of Men of Learning, and in presence of ten Cardinals, among whom were the two Cardinals *Barberini*. The Funeral Elogiums made in his praise are not to be number'd: There is compos'd a great Volume of 'em, in above 40 different Tongues. He is interr'd in the Church of the *Jacobins* at *Aix*; and these Words are read on his Tomb, where also his Parents are bury'd, *Tumulus Fibricorum*.

PAPIRE MASSON.

PAPIRE *Masson* was born in the Country of *Forez*, in the Borough of *S. Germain Leval*, the 16th of *May* 1544.

His Father, a good Man and a rich Merchant, died a short time after, and his Mother, who soon pass'd to second Nuptials, did not cease her love and tenderness for him: She sent him at the Age of 8 Years to commence his Studies at *Ville Franche*, where the Sciences flourish'd at that time, as much as the smallness of the place would permit. Having a little more Age, she put him to the College of Jesuits of *Billon* in *Auvergne*, where in four Years he finish'd his Studies, and distinguish'd himself among his Camarades, by his application and vivacity of Wit.

He went afterwards to *Toulouse*, to study there the Law under the excellent Professors it at that time had, as it hath had almost at all times; but the Wars of Religion which kindled extremely in that part of *France*, oblig'd him to return to *Billon*, where, by a movement of Devotion, he form'd the design of turning Jesuit.

He took the Habit at *Rome*, whither he was gone with *Anthony Chillon*, his intimate Friend, who was also of *Forez*. He there made the Funeral Oration of a Cardinal, in presence of other Cardinals, and an infinite number of Auditors,
with

III *Illustrious Men of France,*

with incredible applause of the whole Assembly. He went afterwards to *Naples*, where he taught for two Years. Returning into *France*, he did the same in the College of *Tournon* in *Vivarez*, and afterwards in that of *Clermont* in *Paris*, always with good success, and a great concourse of Hearers. *Anthony Challon*, his Friend, who was Grand-Vicar to three Archbishops, having quitted the Society of Jesuits, *Papire Masson* follow'd his Example, and went to teach in the College of *Plessis*, neighbouring to that of *Clermont*: And there, in the Speech he made at the opening of his Lessons, he gave the reason of his leaving the Society, with so much honesty and moderation, that not only all his Hearers, but even the Fathers whom he left, were very well satisfy'd with him, not having touch'd by the least word, the Reputation of the Company he departed from; altho' at the same time several others, in making the same Step, transported themselves into most scandalous Invectives. He made a very elegant Description of the Nuptials of *Charles IX.* and of *Elizabeth*, Daughter of the Emperor *Maximilian*; a Work which got him the Esteem and Friendship of all Men of Learning, and Persons of the highest Quality.

He went to *Angers* to study the Law under *Francis Baldwin*, his Friend, and after two Years study in that Science, he return'd to *Paris*, where the Chancellor *de Cheverny* took him to himself, and put him in his Library. There, in the midst of most excellent Books which that Chancellor procur'd from all Parts, he augmented by much the great stock of Knowledge he had before.

He

during the Last Century. 110

He became Advocate in the Parliament of *Paris*, where he pleaded but one Cause, which he gain'd with universal applause, and which was thought so considerable, that Judgment was pronounced in *red Robes*. Beside the quality of Advocate, he had also that of Referendary in the Chancery, and that of Substitute of, the Attorney-General in the Parliament of *Paris*; Places which he did not buy, but were given to his Merit.

His principal Works are, *An History of the Popes*, *Annals of France*; *Latin Elogiums of illustrious Men*; *Description of France by the Rivers*; and *Commentaries upon several Historians*. He compos'd all these Books which have got him so much Reputation, in the midst of a continual Noise of Pewterers and Blacksmiths, wherewith his House was surrounded, and where he lived Thirty three Years, without being incommoded by 'em, *so much force hath custom to make all things supportable*. He was of a gay and easie Temper, sincere and generous beyond his Condition and Fortune, giving his Time and his Labour for the Service of great Lords, without expecting from 'em other Reward, than the joy of doing them a Pleasure.

He was the Friend of all the learned Men of his time, and particularly of Cardinal *Baronius*, who made great Esteem of all his Works, not finding any thing to correct therein, but some Passages in that *Of the Lives of the Bishops of Paris*, which he mark'd to him; but which, *Masson* would not retrench, referring himself to Posterity to be judge thereof.

His

112 *Illustrious Men of France,*

His Name was *John Masson*; but because he had a Brother of the same Name, he caus'd himself to be call'd *Papire Masson*. This alteration was reproach'd to him by *Francis Hotman*, Lawyer.

He died at *Paris* the 9th of *January* 1611, aged 67 Years.

SCEVO LA

SCEVOLA de SAINTE MARTHE.

THERE is no occasion to forget in this Collection, the illustrious *Scevola de Sainte Marthe*; not only because he was one of the most excellent Men of this Age, but because that having made the Elogiums of so many illustrious Men, it would be extream injustice not to render to *him* part of the honour he hath done to *others*. This honour will not be done to him with the same Eloquence which all *Europe* hath admir'd in *his* Discourses and in *his* Writings; but it shall be with a *truth* and *sincerity* which will be no less advantageous for him, than all the *Beauties* and all the *Graces* of Oratory. He was President and Treasurer-General of *France* at *Poitiers*. He was born at *Loudun* the 2d of *February* 1536, of a Family wherein Wit and Virtue are the Essential and Hereditary Qualities. He was Son of *Louis de Sainte Marthe*, Esq; *Sieur de Neuilly*, and of *Nicole le Fevre de Bisay*, and Grandson of *Goucher de Sainte Marthe*, Esq; *Sieur de Villedun*, both Men of Letters and extraordinary Knowledge, all Descendants of one *Nicolas de Sainte Marthe*, whom the Count *de Dunois* made a Knight at the Siege of *Bayonne* in 1451, and who was Issue of Messire *William Raymond de Sainte Marthe*, Kt. Lord

114 *Illustrious Men of France,*

of *Roquevert*, who serv'd *Philip de Velois* about the Year 1350.

Scevola's force and sprightliness of Wit made him an able Man in a little time, and gain'd him Knowledge almost without bounds. He was Orator, Lawyer, Poet, and Historian. The learned Tongues were all very familiar to him, particularly the *Greek*, the *Latine*, and the *Hebrew*. He join'd thereunto the Qualities of a perfect honest Man. He was a good Friend, zealous for his Country, and of an inviolable Fidelity for the service of his Prince. He merited the Esteem and Praises of four great Kings. *Henry III.* propos'd a few Days before his death, to make him Secretary of State; and having heard him harangue in favour of the Treasurers of *France*, his Brethren, who had been suppress'd, he re-establish'd them upon his consideration, and said, *That there was no Edicts strong enough against so strong an Eloquence.* *Henry IV.* look'd on him as the most Eloquent Man of his Kingdom. *James*, King of *Scotland* and of *England*, admir'd his Writings, and said, *That Cicero and Virgil were inclos'd in a single Scevola*; and the Prince of *Wales*, Son and Successor of that Monarch, passing incognito through *France* to go into *Spain*, visited him at *Loudun*, saying, *That he believ'd he saw all the learned Men, in seeing Scevola de Sainte Marthe.*

Henry III. and *IV.* gave him Employments worthy of his Sufficiency and his Probity: And, how could they avoid honouring a Man who did so much Honour to their Kingdom? His Constancy and his Fidelity appear'd with lustre in the States of *Blois* in 1588, where he attended, by order of *Henry III.* to serve his Majesty as occa—
sion

sion offer'd. There was one, among the rest, of particular Importance. A certain Chief of the *League* having observ'd that among the Deputies there was none more contrary to his Designs, nor who testify'd more Fidelity for the King, than the Officers did, he had it propos'd to suppress part of them, in order to intimidate and to reduce the rest to buoy up his Party.

The Officers perceiving the Snare, made an Act of Protestation, which they sign'd to the number of above 300, and employ'd the *Sieur de Sainte Marthe* to present it, and to be their Spokesman.

He undertook an Action so generous, even with peril of his Life, and overthrew the Designs that had been form'd against the Service of the King. He afterwards also gave proofs of his Fidelity, by his Conduct and sage Advice in the Assembly of the *Eminent Men* conven'd at *Rouen*, by the order of the King (*Henry IV.*) to remedy the Disorders which were slipt into the State during the Civil Wars. His *In egrity* appear'd when he was made Intendant of the Treasury in the Army of *Bretagne*, under the Duke of *Montpensier*, and his *Zeal for Religion* in the Commission he executed by the King's Order in *Poitou* and elsewhere, with the Chancellor of the Hospital, to put the Catholics in Possession of their Estates, from whence they had been thrown out, and to restore the exercise of the Catholic Religion in the places possess'd by those of the pretended Reform'd Religion.

The Reduction of *Poitiers*, under the obedience of *Henry IV.* was his Work, and one of his most signal Services. *Loudun*, whose Ruin

116 *Illustrious Men of France,*

he prevented, look'd on him as the Father of the Country, and gave him the Surname of it.

He died the 29th of *March* 1623, aged 87 Years, lamented by the whole Kingdom. A great number of great Personages made at that time his Elogium; among whom signaliz'd themselves principally *Baif*, *Joseph Scaliger*, *Justus Lipsius*, *Casaubon*, *John d'Aurat*, President de *Thou*, *Janus Douza*, *Rapin* and *Pasquier*.

His principal Works were, *The Elogiums of illustrious Men*, and *A Poem of the manner of bringing up Children at the Breast*, with this Title, *Pædotrophia, seu de puerorum educatione, Libri 3.* This Poem was printed ten times during his life, and about as many since his death. It was read and interpreted in the most celebrated Universities of *Europe*, with the same veneration that is had for the ancient Authors. He compos'd divers other Poems *Latine* and *French*.

He had by *Renee de la Haye*, his Wife, several Children, every way worthy of their Father, but particularly these, *viz.* *Abel de Sainte Marthe* Councillor of State, and Keeper of the Library of *Fontainebleau*, a learned and eloquent Man, Author of most excellent Works printed in part with those of his Father; and *Scevola* and *Louis de Sainte Marthe*, Twin-brothers, born at *Loudun* the 20th of *December* 1571. They were both Historiographers of *France*; and so resembling in Body, Mind, and Inclinations, that they were often taken the one for the other, and pass'd their whole Lives together in perfect union. They were as the Oracles of *France* for *History* and the *Belles Lettres*. Our Monarchy will

will be for ever oblig'd to them for the *Genealogical History of the House of France* in two large Vol. an incomparable Work, and upon which they labour'd jointly for 50 Years. The Church of France owes 'em no less for *The History of all her Prelates*, which they made under the Title of *Gallia Christiana*. As all the Men of this Family have been very Illustrious, there should have been made here 12 or 15 Elogiums instead of one: But again, as they have possess'd the same great Qualities, it may be said, That the Elogium of the Great *Scevola* may in some sort serve for all the rest.

Paul Pellisson Fontanier,
Of the *French Academy.*

PAUL Pellisson Fontanier was born at *Besiers* in 1624. His Father was Councillor at the Chamber of Edicts of *Languedoc*; his Grandfather Councillor in the Parliament of *Toulouse*; and his Great Grandfather first President in the Parliament of *Chamberri*, after having been Master of Requests, Ambassador in *Portugal*, and Commander for the King in *Savoy*, when *Francis I.* made himself Master thereof.

Monf. Pellisson had so fine a disposition for Eloquence and for Poetry, that he easily surpassed all the Companions of his Studies; and as it was not possible that a Genius so admirable and of such an extent, should be coop'd up in a Country-Village, he came to *Paris* as soon as he could obtain leave from his Parents, and got acquainted with all Persons of distinction at that time, for elegance of Wit, or depth of Knowledge. Domestic Affairs oblig'd him to return to *Castres*, from whence he came back a short time after, but so disfigur'd by the Small-pox and a malignant Defluxion falling upon his Face, that his Friends could hardly know him again. However, as his Wit was not at all changed, but rather its strength and liveliness increas'd by time, he was ne'er the less consider'd nor courted
by

during the Last Century. 119

by the whole World. The Merit of Madmoiselle *Scudery*, (already known by her Works, altho' she own'd 'em not, and who attracted the admiration of every body, notwithstanding all the Veils with which her Modesty endeavour'd to conceal it) made a particular impression upon him, and set him upon wishing with earnestness to have her Esteem and Good-will. This Wish was reciprocal, and they preserv'd till death a Friendship for one another without example for its duration and solidity. In the first Years of his Youth, he made almost an infinite number of agreeable Poems, and small, but most ingenious, Pieces in Prose, which have made the Delights of *Paris*, and of all *France*, for a very long time.

He compos'd, among other things, *The History of the French Academy*, in a stile whereof the justness and brevity cannot be too much commended, at a time when Prolixity was so common a Vice. This History is a Model in this way of Writing. The Academy touch'd with the Honour he did 'em, gave him a place in their Body, altho' there was no vacancy; a Favour that hath no precedent, and apparently will have none, it being difficult that another Man hereafter should do any thing for them to deserve the like Acknowledgment. Monsieur *Fouquet*, Attorney General, and Superintendant of the Treasury, very sensible of the Talents of his Mind, would have him near him, and employ'd him in Business.

The Disgrace of Monsieur *Fouquet* happening a short time after, caus'd his utter Ruin, and lodg'd him in the *Bastile*. His Friends look'd upon this terrible change as a very great Misfortune, altho' they made no doubt of his Inno-

120 *Illustrious Men of France,*

cence, and they could not too much deplore his Confinement, which lasted above five Years. However, this long Imprisonment was the whole rise of his good Fortune, and we cannot enough admire the dealing of God with him. Providence which meant to convert him, and afterwards make of him one of the most strenuous, soundest Defenders of the Catholic Faith, after having given him time to form to himself an excellent stile in the study of human Learning, and in the exercise of Eloquence, threw him into this Solitude, to give him an opportunity of reading and studying, and making such Reflexions as were necessary to so important an Employ. He read there not only all the holy Scripture, with its Commentaries, but all the Fathers of the Church. He read also almost all Books of Controversies. To unbend himself, he writ a Poem of above 1300 Verses, under the Title of *Alcimedon*; and as he had neither Paper nor Ink, he writ it entirely upon the Margins of Books, with little pieces of Lead which he took out of his Chamber Windows.

When he had recover'd his Liberty, he abjur'd his Herefie in the Church of *Chartres*, and gave himself up entirely to compose Works for the Conversion of his Brethren *that were straying*. The King, who always had a great Esteem for him, was pleas'd that he should adhere to his Person; and knowing the beauty and delicateness of his Pen, employ'd him to write the History of his Reign. Those who have read what he hath done of it, assure, That nothing can be finer in that kind of Writing. He was receiv'd Master of Accounts at *Montpellier* in 1655, after he had negotiated the restoration of
that

that Company which had been suspended in 1650. He was made Master of Requests in 1674. He was nominated Steward of *Cluni* and *St. Germain de Prez* in 1675. In 1676, he was appointed to the Administration of a third of the Stewardships. And in 1679, he was made Steward of *St. Denis*. His *Fortune* chang'd several times, but his *Heart* remain'd ever the same. Every thing that was *Dejecting*, every thing that was *Corrupting* left him in all his *Constancy*, all his *Honesty*. It was he, who to satisfy the passion he had for the Glory of the King, propos'd to the *French Academy*, to give a Premium for *Poetry*, as is done for *Prose*, and to give it to Him whose Work in Verse should best celebrate the Praises of the King. This reward is a Gold Medal of 300 Livres, whereof he was at the charge, and the Academy hath continu'd it since his death.

He made considerable Presents to divers Churches, to shew his Faith upon the Mystery of the *Eucharist*, which was for a long time the greatest obstacle of his Conversion; among others, a Lamp of silver of 2000 Livres, which he gave to the Nuns of the Visitation in *St. Anthony's Street*, to burn Night and Day before the holy Sacrament. This Gift was not known till after his death. Every Year he solemniz'd the Day of his Union to the Church, by approaching to the Sacraments; and after his dismission from the *Bistile*, he let not a Year pass without setting some Prisoner at liberty.

His principal Works of Prose, are, *The History of the French Academy*, *A Panegyric on the King*, pronounc'd in the same Academy, which hath been translated into *Latine*, *Spanish*, *Italian*.

122 *Illustrious Men of France,*

Italian, English, and Arabic too, by the Patriarch of Mount Libanus; The Preface of Sarafins Works, Reflexions upon the Differences of Religion in 4 Vol. and a sort of Manual of short Prayers to say during Mass. He was upon A Treatise of the Eucharist, when he was prevented by death the 7th of February 1693; so that it may be said he died fighting for Religion.

PETER

PETER du PUY,
Keeper of the King's Library.

IT would be difficult to say, whether it be upon the score of *Knowledge* or *Virtue* that the Person I speak of hath most deserv'd to be consider'd. The Employ of Keeper of the King's Library (whereof he was infinitely worthy) is a *Token* of his Sufficiency; and his Works, which are the admiration of the Learned, are a *proof* of it, which cannot be contested.

With respect to Manners, there never was sweeter, more regular, nor more amiable; a great deal of Piety and of Modesty, an obliging Humour, a perfect Integrity, and a very zealous Love for his Country, form'd his Character. He had also an admirable acuteness for Business: However embarrass'd it was, he immediately found the *point* that decided it. Monsieur *le President de Thou*, his Relation, (who was so good a Critic in Men of Merit) was never better pleas'd than in his Conversation; and Monsieur *Rigault* was admitted for a *Third* in their learned Entertainments.

It may be said, that the predominant passion of Monsieur *du Puy* was *the love of his Country*. Almost all his Works have no other tendency but to do it honour, to make it Valuable, and to raise the Advantages of it. Returning from a Journey

124 *Illustrious Men of France,*

Journev he made into *Holland* with M. *Thumery de Boisse*, the King's Envoy; where he renew'd the Friendship which his Father had kept up with all the learned Men of the *Low-Countries*, he apply'd himself to *An Enquiry of the Rights of the King, and the Inventory of the Treasure of Charters*, the Examen whereof (which he carefully made) gave him a perfect knowledge of every thing relating to History. He embrac'd, with incredible joy, the Commission that was given him with Messieurs *le Bret* and *de Lorme*, to justify the Rights of the King upon the three Bishopricks of *Metz, Toul, and Verdun*, and the Usurpations of the Duke of *Lorraine* upon these same Bishopricks. The whole weight of this Commission fell upon him; he drew all the *Repertories*, and furnish'd a great many Treatises and Memorials for the verification of the just Pretensions of *France*.

To be convinc'd of his love for his Country, and of his Zeal for the advantage of the Crown, one need only read the Titles of his Works, whereof take a succinct enumeration. *Treatises touching the Rights of the King, upon several States and Lordships: Inquiries, shewing that several Provinces and Towns of the Kingdom are of the King's Demesne: Proofs of the Liberties of the Gallican Church: Of the Salic Law: That the Domaine of the Crown is unalienable: Treatise of Appanages of the Children of France: Memorial of the Right of Escheats;* and several others of the same nature.

He never had greater joy, than when he discover'd a Title which added something to the Glory of the Kingdom, or which was of some Benefit

Benefit to it. It was to him a sort of Conquest which gave him more pleasure, than if he had augmented his own proper Estate.

He died at *Paris* the 26th of *December* 1651, aged 69 Years. *Monsieur Rigault* wrote his Life; where may be seen more at large the admirable Qualities of this excellent Man. *Monsieur Valois* made his Funeral Oration, and almost all the learned Men of his time made his Elogium.

He gave his Library to the King, after having improv'd *that* of his Majesty's with a very great number of Books, as well *Printed* as *Manuscript*. He and his Brother took care of the Library of *Monsieur de Thou* after his death, and methodiz'd it, as is seen in the Catalogue printed in 1679, which is the finest Model that can be used to dress a Library.

His Brother, *James du Puy*, Prior of *St. Saviour*, took care of the Edition of his *Posthumous Works*, and was Keeper of the King's Library after his death. He continu'd the learned Conferences which were held there every Day, and where all the most ingenious and great Personages, during the Life of both of 'em, took extream delight in appearing. There remains an infinity of excellent things which have been said in these Conferences, and which are come to us under the Titles of *Puteana*, *Thuana*, and *Perroniana*.

The Conferences were so esteem'd, and the Public testify'd so great a regret to see 'em ended, that *Monsieur du Thou* continu'd them in his Cabinet, until the sale of his Library, after which, *Monsieur Salmon*, Keeper of the Rolls, who was entred in these Conferences, held them

at

126 *Illustrious Men of France,*

at his House until his death; and now they are receiv'd at the same House by Monsieur *de Ville-vault*, his Son-in-Law, Master of Requests. This Assembly still retains the Name of the *Cabinet*, beause it was call'd so at the time when it us'd to be kept in the Cabinet of Monsieur *de Thou*.

ROBERT

ROBERT ARNAULD, Lord of *Andilly*.

THE Family of Monsieur *Arnauld d'Andilly*, hath made itself famous not only by *Science* and *Letters*, but also by *Valour* and *Arms*. His Grandfather *Arnauld de la Motte*, originally of *Auvergne*, signaliz'd himself upon several occasions for the service of our Kings. His eldest Son, whose Castle of *la Motte* was burnt by the Troops of the Leaguers, after having given illustrious proofs of his Courage at the Battel of *Iffoire* in 1590; Made Prisoner there the General of the Enemy's Army. *Peter Arnauld*, who was also his Uncle, was *Mestre de Camp* of the Regiment of *Champagne*, &c. and distinguish'd himself very much at the taking of *Rochelelle*. This Captain had so much Genius for War, that the King (*Louis XIII.*) was pleas'd that his new manner of arming the Regiment he Commanded, as also the Exercise and Discipline he caus'd 'em to observe, should be follow'd in the rest of his Infantry.

He, of whom we speak, had not less Courage nor Greatness of Soul, altho' in a different Profession. He was born at *Paris* in 1589, of *Anthony Arnauld*, Attorney General of the Queen *Catherine of Medicis*, who shew'd so much strength of Wit, so much Erudition, and so much

128 *Illustrious Men of France,*

much Eloquence in the first Speeches he made at the Bar, that his Memory will be there in eternal Veneration. Monsieur *Marion*, Advocate General, gave him his Daughter in Marriage, who was a very great Fortune; and this Marriage was blest'd by the birth of several Children of extraordinary Merit. Among others, our present subject *Robert Arnauld*, *Henry Arnauld* Bishop of *Angers*, whose Piety and Episcopal Zeal will serve for ever as a Model for Pastors the most perfect, *Anthony Arnauld* Dr. of *Sorbonne*, known by all the World, and six Daughters, all Nuns, at *Port-Royal des Champs*.

Mr. *d'Andilly*, their eldest, appear'd at Court being yet very young, and appear'd there worthy of the greatest Employments, of which he afterwards bore a great many important ones, with all the Sufficiency and Probity in the World. His way of dealing with Princes, and even Kings, was altogether singular: For, having a great Heart; a Spirit noble, and all the Authority acquirable by a Mein advantageous and proper to create Respect, join'd to a most establish'd Reputation, and a consummate Wisdom, he would speak to 'em with a very great liberty, which yet full of caution, was always very agreeable to 'em, because they were perswaded of his Sincerity, of his Zeal for their Service, and of the honesty of his Intentions. The *public Good* made the same impression upon him, as *private Interest* commonly does upon others. He took pleasure in using the Credit his Merit had gain'd him to countenance Honour and Justice, and as much as he could, to make Virtue as happy as it deserv'd to be. As these great Qualities, which come more from *Heaven* than from *Earth*, had always

carry'd

carry'd him to the contempt of the greatest things which the World promises, he forsook it at the Age of 35 Years, and retir'd to the Abby of *Port-Royal des Champs*, where his Mother, six of his Sisters, and six of his Daughters were under Vows. This Circumstance, which marks upon a Family one of the greatest and most visible Benedictions of God, is so singular, that I do not believe it hath its example. It was during this retreat, which lasted 30 Years, that he enrich'd the Church with the curious Works that are seen in the Hands of all the World, and which are in such quantity, that they are printed in 8 Vol. in Fol. They are (for the greatest part) *sacred Histories*, drawn from the most excellent and most faithful Originals, or *admirable Translations* of the finest Works of the Fathers of the Church; the whole written with extream Elegance, and very great purity of Language; and above all, with an Energy and Light which exhibits at the same time the natural Generosity of his Soul, and the Grace of the Holy Spirit which inspir'd him.

After the example of those illustrious *Romans*, who cultivated their Fields when the Affairs of the Republic permitted such an application, he pleas'd himself extreamly in *Gard'ning* at the Hours of his leisure. He philosophiz'd so profoundly upon the nature of Trees, upon what is *proper* to 'em, or *contrary*; and by the sundry Observations which a long Experience had furnish'd him with, he had thereof so perfect a knowledge, that till him no body hath carry'd so far this delightful and innocent Art.

It seems that God was pleas'd, upon the end of his life, to recompence his perfect Disinterest-

130 *Illustrious Men of France,*

edness. For the King being inform'd of the Merit and Capacity of Monsieur *Arnauld de Pomponne* his Son, made him Minister and Secretary of State when he was Ambassador in *Sweden*, a Choice wherein all *France* took pleasure. Mr. *d'Andilly* liv'd near 86 Years in perfect vigour both of Body and Mind, loving his Friends with tenderness, and belov'd by them with respect: Happy according to the World, and a thousand times more happy in God, whom he always prefer'd before all things, having desir'd nothing ardently upon Earth, but *Eternity*, into which he enter'd the 23d of *September 1671*, by a most divine Death, answerable to his whole Life.

ANTH.

ANTH. ROSSIGNOL, Master of Accounts.

IT was always look'd upon as a thing wonderful, that Men should find the means of communicating their Thoughts, (all *Spiritual* as they are) by *Corporeal* Characters, which of themselves have no resemblance with the Things they signify: But if it be matter of amazement, that one Man shall divine the *Thought* of another by these Characters, even when they are form'd to give that Thought to the Understanding; how much more surprizing is it, that he should have the ingenuity of guessing it, when these same Characters are made on purpose to conceal the Thought, and steal it from his Knowledge? Yet this is what is done every Day by those who have the Art of Decyphering; a Secret so admirable, that it is only the custom of seeing it practis'd, which makes that it is not thought a Miracle. Among those who have had this Talent, no body hath possess'd it to that point of perfection as was observ'd in him I am now speaking of.

He was born in the Town of *Alby* the first Day of the Year 1600, and his Parents, the most considerable of the place, were very careful of his Education. He apply'd himself strongly to the study of Sciences the most difficult, and par-

132 *Illustrious Men of France,*

particularly the Mathematics, wherein his Wit, (lively and penetrating beyond what can be imagined) discover'd in a short time what they contain, the most abstruse and the most curious. By the exact knowledge of these Sciences, but principally by the force of his Genius, he arriv'd to the Solution of all sorts of Cyphers, almost without ever meeting with one all his life that was impenetrable to him. It was in the Year 1626, and at the Siege of *Realmont* a Town of *Languedoc*, then in the power of the Hugonots, that he made his first Essay. It was besieg'd by the King's Army, commanded by the Prince of *Condé*, and made such defence, that the Prince was upon the point of raising the Siege, when there happen'd to be intercepted a Letter from the besieged written in Cypher, wherein the most skilful in the Art of Decyphering could understand nothing : It was given to Monsieur *Rossignol*, who Decypher'd it *extempore*, and told 'em, 'That the besieged did therein notifie to the Hugonots of *Montauban*, that they wanted Powder, 'and that if it was not immediately provided, 'they must surrender to the Enemy. The Prince of *Condé* sent the besieged their Letter with the Key of it, which oblig'd 'em to surrender that very Day. The thing having been reported to Cardinal *Richelieu*, he sent for Monsr. *Rossignol* to Court, who gave such astonishing proofs of his Ability, that this great Cardinal, notwithstanding his extraordinary Genius *which hinder'd him from admiring a great many things*, yet could not tire himself in shewing his amazement. He was of very great use during the Siege of *Rochelle*, in discovering the Enemy's Secrets by their intercepted Letters, which he solved, all of them, with

with little or no trouble. This great Minister rewarded his Merit with divers Benefactions, and the King (*Louis XIII.*) recommended him at his death to the Queen, *as a most necessary Man for the good of the State.*

The King who knows so perfectly the Talents of Men, always honour'd him with a most particular Esteem, express'd by continual Favours, and a considerable Pension, which he continu'd to him during his life. It is true, it is not known in *detail*, neither the number, nor importance of the Services he hath perform'd, the Conspiracies he hath discover'd, the Towns whereof the Conquest hath been made easie by his Skill, those he hath prevented from being taken, the Battels gain'd, and Defeats avoided, by learning (through him) the Designs, the Enterprizes, and all the Thoughts of the Enemy, because he always kept an inviolable silence upon that subject: But the *Ignorance* we are in of these Services hath so good a Cause, that it is no less honourable for him than the *Knowledge* of what he hath done for the good of the Kingdom.

He serv'd his *Country* 56 Years, and his *God* all his life, which he spent in a continual meditation of holy Scripture, as much *reserv'd* in desiring to sound the Secrets which *God* hath kept to himself, and of which it is good we should be ignorant, as he was *active* in penetrating the Secrets of *Men*, of which it is useful to have the knowledge, as *humble* and *submissive* in the things of *Faith*, as he was *superior* in all those things which are in the jurisdiction of *Sense* and *Reason*. The King in his return from *Fontainbleau*, did him the honour to go see his

134 *Illustrious Men of France,*

Country-house at *Juvizi*, which was very fine. Monsieur *Rossignol* receiv'd his Majesty with such an excess of Joy, (for no body had ever more Zeal for his Prince) that the King taking notice of it, and fearing lest it might prejudice a Man so very much in Years as he was, was pleas'd to order his Son, who was following him, to leave him, and go to his Father, to have care of his Health. He died a little time after, aged 83 Years; but in a manner so sweet and calm, that there can be no doubt made but it was a passage to a Life of Bliss. He had a Soul great and disinterested; he was more for his Friends than himself, and his greatest concern was to please them. He marry'd *Catherine Quentin de Richebourg*, by whom he left two Children, *Charles Bonaventure Rossignol* Lord of *Juvizy*, and President of the Chamber of Accounts of *Paris*, and Dame *Mary Rossignol*, Wife of *Monf. Croiset*, President in the Court of Inquests.

RENE DESCARTES, Philosopher.

THOSE who have had the power to make things change their face which they have found establish'd in the World, have been always consider'd as extraordinary Men, above all when this Alteration was difficult to make, or of real utility.

According to this Principle, we ought to make great esteem of him who is our present subject. The Philosophy of *Aristotle* was establish'd every where, and of such force, that it was a thing not sufferable to go against the Sentiment and Decisions of that Philosopher. *Reason* it self stood it not before him, and was oblig'd to be silent when he spoke. However, *Descartes* advanc'd Maxims quite different from his: In *Physic*, he hath taken *Paths* directly opposite, and hath had the force of getting *them* prefer'd by three quarters of the World to *those* of *Aristotle*, which till him had appear'd the only true ones.

He was Son of *Foachim Descartes*, Counselor in the Parliament of *Bretagne*, and was born at the *Hague* in *Touraine* the 31st of *March* of the Year 1596. The natural Inclination which he had to know the Causes of all things, and the continual Questions he made to his Father

136 *Illustrious Men of France,*

to inform himself in 'em, caus'd him to call him ordinarily, *his Philosopher*. When he found himself strong enough to commence his Studies, (for he was born very delicate) his Father put him to the College *de la Flèche*, under the Tutorship of Father *Charlot* his Relation, and afterwards under Father *Dinet*, since Confessor of *Henry IV.* and *Louis XIII.* He surpass'd all his Companions in every thing that was taught him, and especially in Poetry, which he was always a great lover of. He also passionately lov'd the reading of all good Books upon what subject soever, contrary to the custom of several Philosophers, who despise every thing that is not *Philosophy* or *pure Mathematics*. Besides his study of *polite Literature* at the College, he there also made Friends, whom he preserv'd his whole life; among others *Marin Mersenne*, who was afterwards a *Minim*, a great lover of Philosophy and Mathematics, and who was as his *Resident* at *Paris* for his Affairs of Philosophy.

He compleated his Studies at the Age of 16, little satisfy'd with what he had learnt *there*. Of the *Logic* that had been taught him, he would retain but the four Principles which follow.

1. *That we ought not to hold for truth, any thing that is not very evident.*
2. *That we must divide things to know 'em.*
3. *That one's Thoughts ought to be conducted orderly.* And,
4. *That nothing ought to be omitted in what is divided.*

He did the same by *Morality*, whereof he would retain but these four Maxims.

1. *That*

during the Last Century. 137

1. *That one ought to obey the Laws and Customs of one's Country.*

2. *That we ought to be firm to our Resolutions, and follow doubtful Opinions with the same constancy when once we are determin'd, as the most assur'd ones.*

3. *That a Man ought rather to labour to convince himself than to vanquish Fortune.* And,

4. *To search after Truth above all things, and to make that one's principal Employ, without finding fault with the Occupations of others.*

At his entrance into the World, he threw himself into Gaming and other Excursions of Youth, whereof he was soon weary, and which he quitted, to make the study of Truth both his *Employment* and his *Pleasure*. To this purpose, he sought Solitude during his whole life, and if his extraordinary Talents had not attracted him Friends, who would hunt him out where-ever he conceal'd himself, whether at *Paris*, in the extremity of the Suburbs, or in *Holland*, in places the most retir'd, (between which the Town of *Figmont* was that where he staid longest *by fits*) he would have pass'd his whole life remote from the World, content with the Discoveries he had made in all the Sciences. Altho' he had *read* a great deal, he pretended to owe what he knew only to his *Meditations*, and that he should have *written* the same things we have of his, even tho' he had never *study'd*. He examin'd to the bottom all the parts of Philosophy, particularly *Physics* and *Metaphysics*. He laid down as the first Principle of Knowledge, I THINK, THEREFORE I AM. A Principle of incontestible evidence, whence he deduced others, and from them an infinite number

138 *Illustrious Men of France,*

ber of Propositions, which by the necessary concatenation they have, or seem to have one with another, make themselves receiv'd by the Mind in a manner almost invincible.

With respect to Physic, not being content with that of *Aristotle*, which explains all things by the Modus of Qualities it gives to Agents, without troubling it self with the Means which these Agents make use of to operate, and which is rather Metaphsic than Physic, he finds the Mechanical Causes of every thing thar Nature does, and he hath made her work in her Performances very much after the same manner as Art, her Imitator, does in hers. By this means he satisfy'd the *Mind* which sees things; whereas in the Philosophy of *Aristotle*, there is often heard nothing but *Words*. Thus, if he knew not all the Miracles of Nature, he hath set those who shall come after him *in the way* of knowing them as much as Man can be capable. He had for Friends all the learned Men of distinguish'd Merit, with reserve to those whom his new manner of Philosophizing rais'd against him: For, the hardness he had to erect Maxims contrary to those of the Ancients, stirr'd up Enemies who made continual War upon him, but over whom he always triumph'd, by the *Solidity* of his *Reasoning*, as well as by the *Moderation* of his *Spirit*. He always treated Philosophical Questions like a Man of Honour, with sincerity, and ready to embrace the Truth where-ever it could be shewn him. He was esteem'd and belov'd by all who knew him. The Queen of *Sweden* would have him near her Person; and she became so passionate an admirer of his Philosophy, that she gave it a considerable part of her time every Day, rising to attend
it

during the Last Century: 139

it at 5 a Clock in the Morning. She also consulted him in Business of consequence. He fell sick at *Stockholm*, and there died the 11th of February 1650, at 4 in the Morning, aged 53 Years. Monsieur *Dalibert*, Secretary to the King, had so much esteem for him, that, to honour his Memory, (altho' he knew him not but by Reputation and by his Works) caus'd his Body to be brought embalm'd from *Stockholm* to *Paris*, and interr'd in the Church of Saint *Genevieve* after a solemn Service to which all the Learned were invited: He also caus'd an Epitaph to be plac'd there. His Life has been written, and is in the Hands of all the World; wherefore I shall not go about to relate here all that befel him remarkable, nor all the Works that he has been the Author of,

ANTH.

ANTH. le MAISTRE, Advocate.

NOTHING would be more advantageous to form the Elogium of *Monf. le Maistre*, than to dwell upon the Glory which he acquir'd by his Eloquence, if it were not yet more illustrious in him to have renounced this same Glory by a motion of Christian Humility. He was born the 2d of May 1608. His Father, *Isaac le Maistre*, was Master of Accounts; and his Mother, *Catherine Arnould*, was Sister of Monsieur *d'Andilly*, of Monsieur the Bishop of *Angers*, and of Monsieur *Arnould* Doctor of *Sorbonne*.

He began to Plead at 21, and betook himself to it after such a manner, as never had its example at the Bar. He carry'd thither the Eloquence of ancient *Greece* and of ancient *Rome*, freed from all the Vices which the Barbarity of our Fathers had introduc'd. It was a new Heav'n and a new Earth in the fine Art of Speaking.

Monsieur, the Chancellor *Seguier*, made choice of him, tho' then but 28 Years old, to present his Letters to the Parliament, and to other superior Courts. It is near 60 Years that the Harangues he pronounc'd were made, and yet they are in as great purity of Language, as if they were but of yesterday's composition. It is a surprizing thing, that this excellent Man not only
knew

knew how to avoid the Vices and Faults of his time, the Puns and the Antitheses which then made the Delights of the Orator, and of his Auditors, but by the force of his Reason he had foreseen, and as it were seiz'd beforehand the perfect manner of expressing himself, which no body had ever done but after a long course of Years. When one considers that his *Eloquence*, admirable as it is, was but one of the least Qualities of Monsieur le Maître, and that his *Humility* made him renounce this precious gift of Speech, for the only reason, *viz.* *That this marvellous advantage would load him with Honours and Riches*, it is not easie to have an Idea noble enough of this great Man, and whatever *Justice France* has done to his Merit, she hath not yet given sufficient attention to it. However it be, there are many who dare set this single Orator against the most excellent of *Rome* and *Athens*. Monsieur the Chancellor, in acknowledgment of the honour which he had done him in Parliament, in the great Council, and Court of *Aydes*, (for he pronounc'd Harangues before these three Tribunals all different one from another, and all equally Eloquent) sent him a Breviate of Counsellor of State, with the Appointments annex'd to that Dignity.

In the midst of Honours, which came in crowds and which brought also many others greater and more solid, he took the resolution of retiring wholly from the World, at a time when one would think a Man should be the most in love with it. Many believ'd he was going to shine in the *Pulpit*, as he had done in the *Bar*, thereby to open to himself a Path to the first Dignities of the Church. But he wrote to Monsieur the Chan-

142 *Illustrious Men of France,*

Chancellor, when he sent back his Letters for Councillor of State, ' That God had given him ' the Grace sincerely to renounce the World, and ' that his desire was not, as some conjectur'd, to ' *change* Ambition, but *to have no more of it*. His retreat for more than 20 Years, was always attended with Exercises of a most austere Penitence, and of the study of holy Books, which he read with a respect and an application inconceivable.

He died the 4th of *November* 1658, aged 50 Years, in Sentiments of Piety worthy his life, and above all, in a lively acknowledgment of the divine Favour, in snatching him betimes from the Cares of the World. He was seen several times to pour forth Tears in the beginning of his Sickness, with the remembrance of so great a Mercy. Besides his Pleadings and the Harangues which we have mention'd, he compos'd several Works in his retreat, among which is *The Life of St. Bernard*, which may be esteem'd a Masterpiece of Eloquence, and as a Specimen of a greater Work he was meditating. He had observ'd with grief, that several Lives of great Men which have shone in the Church by their Sanctity, and particularly those which have been given us in these latter Ages, are mixt with Fables and Falsities, through the Ignorance and false Zeal of the Writers. For remedy of so great a Mischief, he apply'd himself to search for the true Actions and real Character of these great Men, in good Contemporary Authors, *as in pure Springs*; to work afterwards the texture of their Life upon the Pattern just now mention'd. It is upon the Memoirs he has made thereof, that a Person of great Piety and of profound

during the Last Century. 143

found Erudition, and who had the happiness of passing several Years with him, hath compos'd *The Excellent Ecclesiastical History*, whereof he has already given some Volumes, which apparently will be follow'd by many others.

He had a Brother of extraordinary Merit, known every where under the Name of *M. de Saci*, it is to him that's owing the *Translation of all the Old Testament*, which appear'd some Years since, with Notes full of Learning and Piety. We are put in hopes of the Translation of the *New Testament*, of the same Author, with like Remarks. There is also owing to him, *The Translation of a Poem of S. Prosper against Ingrates*, both in Verse and Prose; and *The Translation of Hymns of the whole Office of the Church*: This last is a true Masterpiece in its kind.

PETER

PETER GASSENDI.

PETER *Gassendi* deserv'd rather the Name of *Sage* than *Philosopher*, because his *Soul* was more adorn'd with *Virtue* than his *Mind* with *Notions*. He was born in *January 1592*, in a Village near *Digne*; where, at the Age of 4 Years, he was observ'd in the Night-time to contemplate with incredible attention, the Moon and the Stars. When he was a little more grown, he was sent to *Digne* to make his Studies; where, in a little time, he gave signs of his Wit, and of what he would be *one Day*. He made his Philosophy at *Aix*, and at his return he taught Rhetoric at *Digne*, not 16 Years old. After having pass'd a considerable time in the Disputes of the School, he consecrated himself to the *Ecclesiastical State*, a State more calm and more nigh to Philosophical Vacations. He was provided with a Canonship in the Cathedral of *Digne*; and the degree of Doctor having obtain'd him a Dignity which was disputed him by several Competitors, he was constrain'd to attend a Suit both at *Grenoble* and *Paris*, where his Merit made him known, and got him a great many Friends. In 1628, he made a Voyage into *Holland*, with *Monf. Hillier*, Master of Requests, where he gain'd a very great Reputation by the Conferences he had with the excellent Men of that Country.

Whatever

during the Last Century. 145

Whatever Lights he possess'd, yet for a long time he oppos'd the Circulation of the Blood, and the communication of Chyle with the Blood by the lacteal Veins; but he was undeceiv'd in it by the Dissections which M. Pecquet, (who first discover'd the *Canal Thorachique*) made before him several times; and when he was convinced of the truth of those two Discoveries; he rejoic'd *that he knew 'em before he died*; adding, *That he look'd upon these two Verities which prove one another. as the two Poles of Medicine, upon which it ought to turn for ever*: For he made no esteem of Medicine Ordinary, which admits only of the jirring of Qualities, and the different Temperatures of Humours, for the causes of all Maladies. He made himself famous for many things; but nothing got him more Reputation, than the Dispute he had a very long time with Monsieur *Descartes*. They were both very great Men, but of a Character very different. *Descartes* was never better pleas'd, than to advance Propositions contrary to receiv'd Opinions; and *Gassendi* took a pleasure in conforming his as much as he could, to those he found establish'd. The one distinguish'd himself by the depth of his *Meditations*, the other by the extent of his *Literature*: The one would have it, that all those who had gone before him, hardly knew any thing in the things of Nature; the other endeavour'd to shew, by favourable Interpretations, that the Ancients had thought the same things which were now look'd upon as New: The one seem'd drawn by his own proper Lights; the other appear'd always to be Master of them. In a word, it was said that the one had Notions greater than his Soul; and that the other had a Soul greater

146 *Illustrious Men of France,*

than all his Notions. His Maxims or Philosophy were compos'd of what was best and most reasonable in *Epicurus* and *Demosthenes*, and he avoided all over-strain'd Paradoxes, whether in the Ancients, or whether maintain'd by the best of the Moderns.

The exact Piety (of which he made profession during his whole life) serv'd not a little to make him moderate and circumspect in his Philosophical Enquiries. Never did any thing escape him, in treating of New Systems of *Tycho-bruhé*, and *Copernicus*, which could wound the Dogma's of the Church. He said Mass every Sunday and Holiday, and that ordinarily in the Church of the Minims of the Royal Square, whither he was drawn by Father *Mersenne*, a great lover of Philosophy, but particularly of Philosophers, with all whom he had a strict Friendship, serving 'em marvellously in communicating their Thoughts to one another, by the intercourse of Letters which he had the care of carrying on. There, after the celebration of divine Mysteries, they conferr'd together, and with several of their Friends, on divers Subjects in Philosophy or Mathematics. He has been reproach'd for not knowing thoroughly enough some parts of the *Literæ*, as *Algebra*, and many Secrets of *Geometry*; but whether he was actually *ignorant* of what was most abstruse in these Sciences, or whether he *neglected* it, he could not but be the more commendable for it. There is something of Little in tying one's self up too much to little things, and even of Imprudence too, to consume therein a time which may be employ'd more usefully upon other Knowledge.

He

during the Last Century. 147

He died the 9th of November 1655, aged 63. Persuaded that he died with having bled too much, He said after the last Bleeding, *It is better to sleep sweetly in the Lord, after having thus lost all ones Strength, than to lose Life with the most lively sentiments of Pain.* Never did Person live a Life more equal and more uniform, never had Man more Illustrious Friends, and better bel v'd by them, particularly after that Monsi. de Montmor, Master of Requests (whose House was the Rendezvous of all the Men of Merit and Learning) had taken him to himself. He founded at his death an annual and perpetual Mass in the Chapel of *Digne*, and Alms also annual and perpetual to the Poor of the same place.

CHAR. du FRESNE,
Sieur du Cange.

CHARLES *du Fresne* was born at *Amiens* the 18th of *December* 1610, of a Family noble and ancient, and ally'd to every thing the most considerable in that City: But whatever advantage he had on the score of Birth, he *did* much more honour to his Ancestors than he *receiv'd* from 'em. His Father, Lord of *Froideval* and Provost Royal of *Beauquesne*, was a Man of Letters, and had of his first Marriage 3 Children, who all died in the reputation of learned Men. He had also 3 Children in second Marriage, the Eldest whereof, and the Youngest, have been Jesuits distinguish'd for their Learning, and the second is our present subject.

He made his Studies in the Jesuits College of *Amiens*, where his application and the vivacity of his Wit soon distinguish'd him from all his Companions: From thence he pass'd to *Orleans*, where he learnt the Law; and then to *Paris*, where he became Advocate. The ardent and insatiable desire of Knowledge, and particularly of penetrating into all the curious Learning of the most obscure Antiquity, suffer'd him not to confine himself to the Function of any Employ. His Father had a great deal of joy to see the progress his Son made in these Enquiries

quiries, and the reputation he had of *one of the most learned Men of the Kingdom*. He receiv'd from him a little time afterwards another Satisfaction yet more touching, tho' very sorrowful, which was his Son's tender and continual Affiduity with him for the whole space of a Year which the Sicknes (whereof he died) lasted. As long as God preserv'd to him to good a Father, he never thought of procuring the sweetness of other Company; but the Solitude wherein he found himself after this loss, and the advice of his Friends, engag'd him to Marry. A great many People are of Opinion, that the Conjugal Tye, and the care of Family-Affairs, are incompatible with the application necessary for Study: But he of whom I am speaking hath shewn that this Rule is not so general, as to be without its exceptions. The Woman he marry'd, was descended from one of the most considerable Families of the Country, Sage, Virtuous, and of Manners sweet and easie, suitable to his own, and was no hindrance to the course of his Studies. They liv'd together 50 Years and more, in an entire and perfect Concord; and she surviv'd him 6 Years for the help and consolation of the Children he left her. She died the 19th of July 1694.

In 1645, the Treasurership at *Amiens* was conferr'd on him, which he executed to the Year 1668, when the Plague that ravaged that City, and all the Neighbourhood, oblig'd him to come to *Paris*. This Desolation was a happiness for him and for all the Men of Letters. For he found in this great City what is not to be met with in the rest of *France*, *That abundance of Books*, either printed or manuscript, with-

150 *Illustrious Men of France,*

out which no Enquiry, no considerable Work can be carry'd to its utmost perfection; and at the same time his profound Knowledge, and the ingenuous manner of his communicating it to those who convers'd with him, and who consulted him, were of great help to all Men of Letters: One of his principal Applications was to clear up what was most obscure in History, in giving the true meaning of all terms difficult to be understood, whether for their Barbarousness, or being Names of things whereof one has but little knowledge.

He hath made, for this purpose, *Glossaries of the Mean and Low Latin, and Greek also of the middle and last age*. With this help, there's now no more difficulty found in such Books which till then were least of all penetrable. What was most obscure, is become most intelligible: And it may be said, that *Monf. du Cange* hath created in some sort *Light where it was Darkness*. No body ever apply'd himself more to the search of an *Explication*, and hath had more Sagacity in finding it. We owe to him *The Edition of the History of Cinnamus, that of the Annals of Zonaras, The Description of Constantinople, Of the Byzantine Emperors*. We also owe to him the admirable Commentaries he hath made upon *The History of St. Louis*, written by the *Sieur de Joinville*. Posterity will hardly believe that one single Man should have so much Knowledge of what was most conceal'd from all the Learned, and *that his Life should suffice for all the Works he has left*. He labour'd at a great Work, which he had entitul'd, *Chronicon Paschale, sive Alexandrinum*, when he was seiz'd with the Sicknets whereof he died. He suffer'd long

during the Last Century. 151

ing and cruel Pains in the course of this May, without shewing any signs of impatience; he receiv'd the Advice that was given him in his extreme danger, with a constancy incredible. He died the 23d of *October* 1688, aged 78 yrs. He had enjoy'd so happy a state of alth during his whole life, that he pass'd the last 55 Years without any touch of a Distemper. Of ten Children which he had, there are but three left, a Son and two Daughters. The Son Treasurer at *Poitiers*. His Manners were very sweet, and his Humour always even, cordially loving his Friends, and belov'd by them as well. *Monf. Colbert* had a great value for him, and took extream delight in keeping him in his Library. He had resolv'd to employ him to make a History of *The History of France*; which was, to review what the learned *Monf. du Chesne* hath already printed of it, and to continue the same undertaking, according to *du Chesne's* design. His measures were all taken for this Work, when the death of that Minister (who so much lov'd letters, and the Cultivators of 'em) put a stop to the execution of it.

CLAUDE PERRAULT,
OF THE
Academy-Royal of Sciences.

HE of whom I'm going to speak, was so born for the *Sciences*, and especially for the *noble Arts*, that he possess'd 'em all to a degree which amaz'd those who made a particular profession of 'em, yet without ever having any Masters to teach 'em him. *Architecture* was that wherein he seem'd most to excel, because there offer'd occasions more favourable of exerting it. Monsieur *Colbert* being about to procure Designs for the fore Front of the *Louvre* by the most celebrated Architects of *France* and *Italy*, and Cavalier *Bernino* being sent for to *Paris*, to the intent that this great Man might himself execute his design; Monsieur *Perrault's* was preferr'd before all the others, and afterwards executed in the manner we see it. And it may be said, 'That in the single Front of the *Louvre*, there 'is as much beauty of Architecture, as in any of 'the Edifices of the Ancients.

When the Draught of this Front was presented, it pleas'd extreamly: *That Area*, those majestic *Portico's*, the Pillars whereof bear Architraves of 12 Foot long, and square Roofs of like breadth, surpriz'd the Eyes of those that are most

. *during the Last Century.* 153

most accustom'd to fine things; but it was believ'd that the execution of it was impossible, and that this design was more proper for Picture, (because as yet the like had been seen only upon Cloth) than to serve as a Model for the Frontispiece of a *real* Palace. Yet was it entirely executed, nor has there fail'd a single Stone of *that large Roof, all flat and hung in the Air*. It was upon his designs the *Observatory* was built; a Work not only singular for its *Structure*, whereof the plain and majestic Solidity hath no equal, but which may (of it self, without the help of any Mathematical Instrument) serve, *by the form that is given it*, for most part of *Astronomical Observations*. It is also upon his designs, that the great Model of the *Triumphal Arch* has been rais'd, and that a considerable part of this same Arch is built after this Pattern. So that he hath had the advantage of having given the Form of *three* the finest Pieces of Architecture that ever was in the World. Monsieur *Colbert* who lov'd the Art extremely, being desirous to give to the Architects of *France* the Means of perfecting themselves therein, order'd him to make a new Translation of *Vitruvius*, wherein it may be said he hath succeeded beyond those who went before him in that Work, because that (till him) those who had attempted it were either Scholars, and no Architects; or Architects, and no Scholars.

He had *both* these Qualities, and beside that, a singular knowledge of all things spoken of by *Vitruvius*, which in some degree may respect Architecture, as Sculpture, Painting, Music, Machines, and all the other Arts depending upon

154. *Illustrious Men of France,*

on it. He *Design'd* in perfection; so that the Draughts he hath made with his own Hand, and upon which all the Plates of *Vitruvius* have been graved, are yet a great deal finer, exacter, and better finish'd than these Plates, altho' they too are of an extraordinary Beauty. He afterwards made an Abridgment of *Vitruvius*, for the convenience of those who begin to study Architecture. He had also made a Book upon this fine Art, entitul'd, *Disposition of the five Species of Columns, according to the method of the Ancients*, wherein he gives the true proportions which the five Orders of Building ought to have, in removing them equally from the Extremities whereto some Men have carry'd them, and in making them commensurable to one another, without any Fraction of Parts in the Model, which infinitely shortens the study of Architecture.

When the *Academy Royal of Sciences* was establish'd, he was nominated among the first to be of it, and to assist at it, particularly in what regards Physic. It was upon the Dissections made in this celebrated Academy, that he has drawn *Memorials to serve for the Natural History of Animals*, which have been printed at the *Louvre* in 1679, and whereof there remains to be printed a second Volume, which was left to the Academy after his death, to be review'd before it be put in the Press. He hath also written 4 Vol. of *Essays of Physic*, wherewith the Public hath testify'd great satisfaction, and particularly with the abundance of *new Thoughts* therein contain'd.

At

during the Last Century. 155

At the time of his falling sick, he was endeavouring to put into condition a Collection of divers Machines of his own invention, all very curious. There were some for raising great loads, wherein he avoided *le frottement* (Rubbing) which is one of the greatest obstacles in Movements, and which had never been hoped for, nor thought possible. This Work will be given to the Public out of hand. If I have not spoken of his ability in *Medicine*, (which was his true Profession) It is not, That, *studious, sage, and of profound Meditation as he was*, he did not, perhaps, excel as much and more than in any other Knowledge; but it is because that when he was call'd to the Academy of Sciences, he only exercis'd it for his own Family, for his Friends, and for the Poor. He got his death by assisting at the Dissection of a Camel, which apparently died of a contagious Malady; for all those who were present fell sick. It was in the Royal Garden of Plants this Dissection was made. After his death, the Faculty of Physic at *Paris*, order'd their Dean to beg his Picture from his Heirs. and they had it plac'd among those of the *Fernels*, the *Akakias*, the *Riolans*, and the *Guenaults*, wherewith the Hall of their Assemblies is adorn'd. The Register which testifies this Deliberation, speaks of him in this manner.

Die 6 Novemb. Anno 1692.

Depicta tabella M. Claudii Perrault ad me decanum H. H. missa ab illustrissimo Fraire ipsius & dono data Scholæ nostræ, appensa fuit in Scholis nostris superioribus. Hic vir qui Doctor Medicus
Pari-

156 *Illustrious Men of France,*

Parisiensis fuit, Scholæ nostræ lumen ac sydus meritò potest appellari. Varia in lucem ab eo sunt emissa opera Physica, quibus nihil est pictius aut elegantius, aut verosimilius. Vitruvium Gallice reddidit & illustravit. Mathematicarum, Disciplinarum laude, Pictura, Architectura, Musicaque fuit inter cæteros ævi nostri præstantissimos viros, præstantissimus. Dum Cameli putrescentis viscera curiosius indagat scrutaturque scalpello, tetra quoddam aurâ afflatus, mox è vivis ereptus est. Sicut tanti viri memoria apud doctos quosque, sic apud nos Collegas ipsius perpetua esse debet, pag. 95. tom. 17. Commentar. Facult. Med. Paris.

November the 6th, 1692.

‘ The Portrait of Monf. *Claude Perrault* sent
 ‘ to me (*H. M. Dean*) by his most illustrious Bro-
 ‘ ther, and given to our School, was hung up,
 ‘ &c. He was Doctor of Physic at *Paris*, and
 ‘ may of our Body deservedly be call’d the Light
 ‘ and Star. Divers are the Works in Physic by
 ‘ him publish’d, than which nothing is better
 ‘ Devis’d, more Elegant, and more Probable.
 ‘ *Vitruvius* he made *French*, and illustrated. A-
 ‘ mong others of our Age that *excell’d* in the
 ‘ Glory of Mathematical Learning, Painting,
 ‘ Architecture, Music, *He was most Excellent.*
 ‘ Whilst he was curiously inspecting and search-
 ‘ ing with his Lancet the Entrails of a putrify-
 ‘ ing Camel, struck with a certain poisonous Va-
 ‘ pour, was immediately snatch’d from the liv-
 ‘ ing. As the Memory of so great a Man ought
 ‘ to be perpetual among all the Learned, so
 ‘ ought it with us his Colleagues, &c.

What

during the Last Century. 157

What may be said in the general of Monsieur Perrault, is, That if there are found some Persons who have excell'd him in some of the Talents he possels'd *There hath scarce any one been met with, whose Genius and Capacity extended all at once to so many different things.*

He died the 9th of October 1688, aged 75 Years.

Francis

Francis de Malherbe.

IT is not without reason that the Town of *Caen* is renown'd for the *Bel Esprit*, as natural in some sort to her Inhabitants. Altho' she had not afforded an almost infinite number of Men of Letters, remarkable particularly for the fineness and beauty of their Genius, it had suffit'd to have been the Cradle of *Malherbe*, to deserve the Praises that are given her. He was born in 1555. He was of the ancient House of *St. Aignan de Malherbe*, which bore Arms in *England* so long, and render'd it self *there* much more considerable than in the place of its original; where it decay'd so much with time, that the Father of *Malherbe* was but a Judge-Lateral at *Caen*. The young *Malherbe* made his Studies in that Town with *James Davy du Perron*, since Cardinal; and *John Bertaut*, since Bishop of *Seez*. They were all three excellent Poets.

The Father of *Malherbe* turning Hugonot in his latter end, his Son was so sensibly troubl'd at it, that he left the Country, and put himself in the Service of Monsieur d'*Angoulesme*, natural Son of *Henry II*. Follow'd him in *Provence*, (whereof he was Governour) and staid in his Family till the Day that Prince was Assassinated by *Altovitti* in 1586. He marry'd a Councillor's Widow Daughter of a President of *Provence*,
nam'd

during the Last Century. 159

nam'd *Magdeluin de Carriolis*, by whom he had several Children, who all died before him.

The Reputation of *Malherbe* 'spread it self in a short time on all sides, and by the good Offices of Cardinal *Perron*, reach'd the Royal Ear of *Henry IV.* The King one Day asking the Cardinal, *If he made Verses no more?* He answer'd, 'That he had bid farewell to that amusement ever since his Majesty had done him the honour to employ him in his Affairs; and added, 'That no body ought to meddle with Versification, after a certain Gentleman of *Normandy*, nam'd *Malherbe*; who had carry'd the *French* Poësie to so high a pitch, that it was not possible to come near him. Yet *Malherbe* came not to Court till three or four Years after, towards 1605, a little before the King set out to reduce the Province of *Limosin*. His Majesty having order'd him to make some Verses upon his Journey, he presented him, at his return, with some Stanzas, which gain'd him a great deal of Reputation, and wherewith the King was so pleas'd, that he commanded *M. Bellegarde* to give him his House, till he put him upon the establishment of his Pensioners. This Lord gave him his Table, a Horse, and 1000 Livres appointment. *M. de Racan*, who was at that time *Page of the Chamber*, struck a Friendship with *Malherbe*, who taught him to make Verses; and this Friendship continu'd to the last. The Queen (*Mary de Medicis*) after the death of *Hen. IV.* gave *Malherbe* 500 Crowns Pension.

His principal Talent in *French* Poësie, lay in the turn he gave to Verse, which no body before him knew any thing of, which all the Poets that have come afterwards, have endeavour'd to imitate

160 *Illustrious Men of France,*

imitate; but whereunto very few have arriv'd. He reformat in some sort the whole Tongue, by excluding Words *fi-y'd* as it were from the *Latin*, and Phrases turn'd after the manner of the *Latins* or *Greeks*, which had *disfigur'd* greatest part of the Works of those who had gone before him, and particularly *Ronsard*; altho' that Poet believ'd they gave a great Beauty and wonderful Majesty. Not that *Malherbe* did not use Expressions *a little ancient* (which he would call his good Friends, because he found much good in 'em) more willingly than Words which were yet *newish*, which he said could not be avoided too carefully, *because the greatest part of 'em died as soon as born*; but there is a great deal of difference between *old* Words and *barbarous*, such as we may call a great number of those which *Ronsard* uses, and most other Poets of *that* time.

The care *Malherbe* took to refrain from these sort or Expressions, (which the ill taste then prevailing made seem *noble* and *bold*) hath made some say, That he was not so *great a Poet*, as he was a *good Versifier*: But if one examines well his Works; and his *Odes* in particular, which are almost all Masterpieces, there will not found in 'em less of *Force*, *Elevation*, and *Enthusiasm*, than of *Justness*, *Sweetness*, and *Harmony*. It is true, that *all* his Works want a great deal of being *equally* good, and that what he hath done in his more advanc'd Years, is infinitely better than the productions of his Youth. But this is common with Poets, whose predominant part is *good Sense*, (as it was in him) different from those who have nothing but *Imagination*, which grows weaker almost always with Age.

However.

during the Last Century. 161

However it be, the face of Poetry entirely chang'd when he came into the World. He was own'd a Master as soon as he appear'd; and all those who pretended to this fine Art, were not asham'd of receiving his Lessons. The greatest part of the Rules which are observ'd at this Day for good Versification, are taken out of his Works, whereof the *Beaux endroits* are still in the Mouth of all the World. No body ever receiv'd more Praises from those of his own Profession, *nor ever gave them less*, because he hardly ever met with any thing answerable to the Idea he had form'd of Noble and Great Poetry. He writ also divers Works in Prose, *which would have sufficed to render him Illustrious*. He hath translated *Seneca's Treatise De Beneficiis*, in a stile which does no wrong to its original; and the Collection of his Letters may serve for an example in that kind of Writing; but the great Renown of his Poetry hath almost effac'd all the merit of his Prose. He died in 1628, aged 73 Years. His Works will do eternal honour to *France*, and the Age he liv'd in.

*John Louis Guez, Sieur
de Balzac,
Of the French Academy.*

IT may said, that *Eloquence* owes to Monsieur *de Balzac* the same thing that *Poetry* does to Monsieur *de Malherbe*; I mean, that these two Arts have receiv'd from these two great Men, a certain Number, and a certain Harmony, which was not known before.

It was enough for Prose (before *Balzac*) *not to be barbarous*; and the Orators content with possessing the Mind (of those who heard them or read their Works) with things wherein there was *Reason* and *Wit*, scarce ever troubl'd themselves to satisfy the Ears, whereby these same things were to pass. Yet the suffrage of the Understanding and of the Will depend very much upon *that* of the Ears; and it is difficult to please the one *much*, without having 'began by pleasing the others.

Monsieur *de Balzac* apply'd himself to give sound, cadence, and force to his Words by their order and situation; and he hath done it so happily, that there is a greater distance from his Prose and that of all others who preceded him, for Sweetness and power of Harmony, than there is

is from this same Prose and the finest Verses of the best Poets.

Altho' few Writers have come near Monsieur de Balzac in this part of Eloquence, which assuredly is not, less considerable than that of *Action* and *Pronunciation*, wherein *Demosthenes* made almost the whole Art to consist; it is certain, that there have been fewer who have equal'd him in the beauty of Thoughts, and in the noble and majestic Turn he knew how to give them. Every thing became Gold by passing through his Hands. Some have reproach'd him with being too strong in the *Exaggeration*; but Eloquence in the Demonstrative kind, wholly consists in Elevating the Lowest things, and Reducing the Highest; and if he hath sometimes carry'd the Hyperbole a little too far, it is scarce ever so with him, but in his first Years, when such an agreeable Transportment ought to be pardon'd to the youthful Vigour of a great Genius.

The first Book he printed, was, *A Collection of his Letters, written to different Persons of all degrees*. This Collection was receiv'd with incredible applause. As yet there had been nothing seen of a Style so sublime, nor so agreeable; and 'tis not to be told how many Editions were made of it, to satisfy the eagerness of the Public. They had also their Censurers in great numbers; *they were too fine to want them*. He who signaliz'd himself most by his Criticisms, was Father Goulou, General of the *Feuillant*. This learned Man, full of the love of ancient Authors, (a Passion common to the Learned) could not bear, that a Man who endeavour'd to raise himself above the noble Simplicity

164 *Illustrious Men of France,*

city of the Ancients, should have the reputation of Writing well, and looking upon *that* as a *Fault* which all the World took for a *Beauty*, did all his efforts to decry the Eloquence of *Monsieur de Balzac*.

He undertook to make it appear, ' That every thing that was good in the Letters of this ' new Author, was taken from the Ancients, ' and that what was his own, was very faulty. It is true, by his Learning he did compass his end of shewing, that a great many of the good things that were in *Monsieur Balzac's* Letters were to be found in the Ancients; but he did not shew, that *Monsieur de Balzac* had not thought (of himself) the greatest part of what he supposed he had stole, it being almost impossible, that a Man should say any thing that hath not been said by another, and which may not be found written somewhere, especially in a Man that has a great deal of Reading. Neither did he shew at all, That what he found fault with of the Author's own stock, was really worth nothing, except some Hyperboles a little too far driven, as I have observ'd before and a too great affectation of being always lofty in things that did not require it; an Affectation which (no doubt) is vicious, but which ought, to be pardon'd in favour to all the rest. This Collection of Letters was follow'd by six others, which were equally well receiv'd by the Public, notwithstanding all the pains that was taken to decry them.

He did several small Works that were printed under the Title of *Oeuvres Diverses*, all excellent in their kind; *The Prince and Christian Scocrates* appear'd afterwards; and at last, *Aristippus*,

during the Last Century. 165

pus, which is his Masterpiece. The *Stile* of it is more pure and more correct than *that* of all his other Works, and contains an infinite number of Precepts of Morality and Politics, which having all the Solidity that is found in Books that have nothing else, are also deliver'd with a singular Grace in the Diction, and Harmony of the Words. *Balzac* is a small Territory in *Angoumois*, whereof he was Lord, and where he most-ly resided. He was of the *French Academy*; and altho' his frequent Indispositions, and his almost continual absence from *Paris*, depriv'd him of the satisfaction of coming often thither, yet no body hath done *more* honour to that illustrious Company.

He founded a Prize of Eloquence, which consists in a Gold Medal of 200 Francs (15 *l. English*) where *St. Louis* is represented, and which is bestow'd every two Years on the Feast-day of that Saint, in a solemn Session then held by the Academy; where after reading the piece of Eloquence that hath carry'd the Prize, they give it to him who is the Author of it, if he be present, or to him who presents himself on his behalf.

He died the 28th of *February* 1654. His Works have been printed since his death in two Vol. in *Fol.* with a Preface of *M. l'Abbé de Cassagnes*, a very fine Piece, very eloquent, and very worthy of being at their Head. Cardinal *Richelieu* hath given him great Praises by Letters in his own Hand, which are Elogiums that will for ever surpass all others, were it only for the Name of him that wrote them.

VINCENT VOITURE, Of the *French Academy.*

VIRGIL being minded to have a Poet in the *Elizian Fields*, hath placed him in the middle of his greatest Heroes, to signify that the Talent of Poetry, when it is in a high degree of Perfection, renders him that possesses it worthy of living among Princes and Monarchs, and even of being upon the level with them. This is what we have seen in him whose Elogium I'm making. Altho' his Birth was none of the most Eminent, being a Wine-Merchant's Son, yet had he the advantage of spending his whole Life, for the sake of his Wit and of his Poetry, in the Conversation and Familiarity of every thing that was Greatest and most Exalted at Court.

It is true, that his Genius was admirable, and the only one of its kind. There appear'd at that time a great many very Eloquent Men. *Balzac* was seconded by several others, in giving to our Tongue the Elegance and Majesty that were wanting to it. *Malherbe*, and other good Poets, had carry'd Verification to a degree of Perfection, far different from that where-in they found it: But *this Eloquence and this Poesse*

Poesie was still of the same sort with *that* of the Ancients, and they only differ'd in either More or Less.

There enter'd into the Writings of *Voiture*, whether in Prose, whether in Verse, a certain Naturalness, and an honest Pleasantry which had no example, and whereof the most polite of all Antiquity furnish'd no Pattern. This Talent, admirable in it self, having also the Graces of the Times, procur'd him the Esteem and Love of all the World. The least things became precious by passing through his Hands; even Proverbs, which in our Tongue are almost always disparaging to Discourse, gave worth and beauty to his, when he had occasion to make use of 'em. It was in the *Hotel de Rambouillet*, (then the common Rendezvous of the *Beaux Esprits*) that his Merit first broke out. Monsieur, the Duke of *Orleanse*, only Brother to the King, kept him near his own Person, in quality of Introducer of Ambassadors and Master of the Ceremonies, the only Place in the Family of that Prince which he executed until his death, and whereof he acquitted himself perfectly well, possessing all the Talents and all the Tongues necessary to that Employ. MONSIEUR sent him into *Spain* upon some Affairs, from whence he passed into *Africa* for Curiosity only, as is seen in his Letters. He was very much esteem'd at *Madrid*, where he compos'd *Spanish* Verses, which every body took for *Lopé de Vega's*, so very pure was the Diction thereof, and so natural. The *Condé* Duke d'*Oliveres*, first Minister and Favourite of the King of *Spain*, took a pleasure in conversing

168 *Illustrious Men of France,*

with him, and even beg'd of him to write to him when he was return'd into *Flanders*. He made two Voyages to *Rome*, and was sent Envoy to *Florence* to carry the News of the King's Birth. He had an Office of *his Majesty's Steward*, and Monsieur, the Count *d'Avaux*, Superintendent of the Treasury, made him his Deputy, only to receive the Profits, without doing the Duty.

He might have died Rich, were it not for the passion he had for Gaming, whereby he lost 1500 Pistoles in one Evening. Monsieur, the Prince, from the time he was but Duke *d'Anguien*, honour'd him with his Friendship. The Access of this young Hero serv'd not a little to Elevate his Soul, and the desire he had to please a Gusto so fine and so delicate, is, perhaps, one of the principal causes of the Excellence of his Works. This may be seen in the Epistolary Poem he writ to that young Prince, upon his return from his Conquests in *Germany*. It is a Piece wherein it cannot be said which predominates, whether the Wit, the Beauty, or the Solidity; never was the Grave and Serious temper'd with a Gallery more nice and more ingenious.

Altho' he never caus'd any thing to be printed, he was in great reputation not only in *France*, but also in foreign Countries, and the Academy of *Humoristi* at *Rome* sent him Letters of Admission. His Works were publish'd after his death in one Vol. which was receiv'd with so much approbation, that there was a necessity of two Editions in six Months. His Prose is what is most Correct and most Exact; it hath

during the Last Century. 169

an Air of Gallantry not to be found any where else. His Verses have a wonderful variety, and a *Je-ne-sçay-quoi* *ness* of Original, which pleases every body, and which *never* appears more *inimitable* than *when* one tries to *imitate* it. It is he who hath renew'd the usage of *Rondeau-Verse*, wherein he hath perfectly succeeded. He was of the *French Academy*, and one of her greatest Ornaments. He was born at *Amiens*, and brought up at *Paris*, where he died in 1648, aged 50 Years.

If he had Admirers, he had also Envyers of his Glory, who endeavour'd to tarnish it *in a manner very particular*, which was by Praising him: They prais'd and admir'd but two or three of his Letters: One, for example, where a Carp and a Pike make a Dialogue, the other, wherein he commends an Abbe's for not letting the Cat go to the Cheese, willing thereby to insinuate, as if he excell'd only in Trifles. Monsieur *Coslar*, who well perceiv'd the malice of this proceeding, took a pleasure in detecting the Artifice. He collected every thing of the strongest, noblest, and most pathetic of all his Letters, and made a Web of 'em, wherein are seen to glitter an Eloquence which charms and which transports. Altho' one has read several times these fine things in the passages they are plac'd in, it is not credible how dazling they are when they are seen together.

There appear'd, after his death, a *Funeral Pomp*, by *Sarrafin*, wherein his Manners and his Life are described very ingeniously. It is an admirable Piece, and, perhaps, the only one in its kind. It not only does honour to him for
whom

170 *Illustrious Men of France,*

whom it is made, because it Praises him, and is Excellent, but because it is *of him and the taste be inspir'd to able Men of his Age*, that it holds principally the Delicateness and Turn therein admir'd. His Works are a Tome of Letters, with several additional Poems, and the beginning of a Romance, entitul'd, *Alcidalis*.

John

John Francis Sarrafin.

JOHN Francis Sarrafin, Native of Caën, and Son of a Treasurer of France of the same Town, was one of the greatest Genius's for the *Belles Lettres*, the easiest, most universal that hath been seen a long time. No body was ever more gallant, more agreeable, nor more pleasant in Conversation. He pleas'd the Ladies, the Men of Letters, the Courtiers, the Wise, and those that were Otherwise; he was ever wonderful, whether he was to hold a regulated serious Conversation, or whether among familiar Friends he might give a loose to those innocent Extravagancies of Wit, those *wise Follies*, wherein formal Discourses give place sometimes to the Flights and Caprices of Poetry, and wherein almost any thing is seasonable but haughty and severe Reason.

His manner of Writing and Composing seems to keep as it were the middle way for Prose, between *Balzac* and *Voiture*; and for Verse, between *Voiture* and *Malherbe*. By this it is not pretended to set him either above or below those to whom he's compar'd, but only to shew the judgment that several have made of his manner of Writing, both in Prose and Verse. *His Prose* has not a Turn so lofty as *that* of *Balzac's*, neither does it descend so much into Simplicity and Pleasantry as *that* of *Voiture's*, who does
not

172 *Illustrious Men of France,*

not disdain to make use of Proverbs after a manner which, in truth, renders 'em sometimes more valuable and more agreeable than the most Polite, most Exalted Expressions. It is the same with *his Poetry*, which assumes not a Tone so stately and so piercing as the Odes of *Malherbe*, and which at the same time does not play so familiarly with his Subject as *Voiture's* does, unless in some *slight* Pieces he made on purpose to divert himself, as those of *Bouts-rimes*, *Crambo*, and the like.

By this means, he has made appear, that he was born for all kinds of Writing. His Works are almost all different from one another, and it seems as if he design'd only to give Samples of all sorts of Style, to shew that he excell'd equally in all. His Relation of the Siege of *Dunkirk*, declares to what a degree he possess'd *The Art of good Narrative*. His *Conspiracy of Walstein* exhibits his Capacity, not only of Writing the Lives of great Men, and of making 'em living Images, but of Writing a Body of History, having manifested in this Essay, That he had all the Qualities of a great Historian. The Life of *Pomponius Atticus*, which he translated from the Latin of *Cornelius Nepos*, shews how much he would have excell'd in Writing Lives. The Dialogue upon the Question, *If a young Man ought to be in Love?* proves he had a great deal of Erudition, and that he was not ignorant of any of the Niceties of Dialogue. His Poësies are no less of a different kind. The Ode he entitled, *Calliope*, is of the highest and most noble Poetry; the design of it is ingenious, having found means, in celebrating the Victory obtain'd by Monsieur the Prince, at the Battel of *Leus*,
to

during the Last Century. 173

to speak of all his other Conquests, which he feigns to have been grav'd upon the Armour of that great Prince. He has left Fragments of an Heroic Poem, which have all the beauty of the most excellent Verse. As for Pieces of Love or Gallantry, he did not content himself with imitating what's best in the Ancients, he has join'd thereto a *Spirit* which they knew nothing of, and whereof He and *Voiture* are in some sort the first Inventors. Of this kind is the Poem of *The Mouse*, whereof the Fancy and Delicateness are without Pattern, and hitherto have had but very few Copies which come any thing near the beauty of their Original.

To be fully convinc'd of the vast extent of his Wit which was proper for every thing, without possibility of knowing wherein he excell'd most, a Man need only read the *Pompe Funebre* which he made for *Voiture*: There is *Satyr* worthy of the Age of *Augustus*, old *French* so much of the Spirit of past Ages, that the Reader thinks himself transported into those Times, and the most polite *French now spoken*; there's *Latin*, *Spanish* and *Italian*, *Verse* and *Prose*, *Fidion*, *Poetry*, and *Pleasantry*; the whole so excellent, that it would be a hard task to find any thing better in any of all these kinds and styles of Works.

I cannot forbear relating here (to shew the readiness of his Wit) what he did one Day in a Journey wherein he attended the Prince of *Conty*, whose Secretary he was, and great Favourite. This Prince as he travell'd, was harangu'd almost in all places where he pass'd. The Mayor and Sheriffs of a certain Town waited upon him in his passage, and made their Speech to him at the Boot of the Coach; the Spokesman stopp'd
short

176 *Illustrious Men of France,*

Marble Table at *Rouën*; but the great Talent he had for Poetry, did not suffer him long to follow that Function. He came to *Paris* to get play'd the Pieces he had Compos'd. At that time *Mairet*, another Poet of distinguish'd Merit, had exhibited a Pastoral, call'd, *Sylvia*, which receiv'd incredible applause, altho' it was defective enough; but it charm'd, because it came after *Garnier's* and *Hardy's* Tragedies, the Language whereof was as much *Latin* as *French*, and the Subjects treated after an antiquated manner, were insupportably dull: As much as *Sylvia* had shone by the comparison that was made of it with the preceding Plays, so much noise did the first Pieces of *Corneille* make when they appear'd, for the degree of Excellence they held above that Pastoral. The first was *Melita*, which had extraordinary success, and was follow'd by seven others; after which he gave the *Cid*, the *Horatii*, *Cinna*, *Polieuctes*, *Death of Pompey*, *The Lyar*, *Rodogune*, *Heracles*, *Don Sanchi d'Arragon*, and *Nicomedes*, Pieces that appear'd with so great beauty, that it was found *Corneille* had out-done *himself* as much by these *latte*, as he had out-done all *other* Poets by his *former* Works.

No body ever had more greatness of Geni for the Theatre, either for Characters extraordinary and well mark'd, which he gave to all Persons, or for the Sentiments he furnish'd with, and the noble manner of expressing th
There was admir'd, above all, the Character the *Roman Haughtiness*, which he put into roes who are famous for it in History. The made frequent repetition of this Character on the Stage, it always pleas'd by some charm
No

Novelty he still added to't. It would be difficult to express the Applause his Works receiv'd.

Half the time of the Representation was employ'd in Exclamations from time to time at the fine Passages; and if by chance he appear'd himself upon the Stage, when the Play was done, the Exclamations redoubl'd, and gave not over till he withdrew, *not being able to bear the weight of so much Glory.* It was not only in Paris and at Court his Works were applauded, it was through all France, and all Europe: And as there was no Nation which desir'd not to take part in the pleasure they gave; so neither was there any Language into which they were not translated. If French is become the Language of all the Gallant Men in Europe, France does not only owe it to the Glory of the Prince given her by Heav'n, but the desire that all People have had of enjoying the Beauties of this Poet's Works in their natural Tongue. He let the Theatre repose for some time, after he had given the Pieces abovemention'd, and apply'd himself to translate into Verse, *The Imitation of Jesus Christ*. This Work (whereof the Chapters are almost all different, in the measure of the Verse, but where the same Genius is observ'd throughout) is one of the finest things we have in this kind.

He seem'd to have renounc'd Dramatic Poems, and according to all appearance, was going to employ the rest of his Days in Works of Piety, (for none of those who have wrote for the Stage, had purer Manners, or more regular) if some Persons possess'd of Posts where it is almost impossible to refuse them any thing, had not engag'd him to return to it again.

N

He

178 *Illustrious Men of France,*

He made *Oedipus*, which, tho' inferior to a great many of his other Works, had yet the same Applause; and may be esteem'd, if equitable Judges are to be credited, as perfect as the *Oedipus* of *Sophocles*, the Masterpiece of that great Poet. He made several Plays afterwards, which are pretended by some to have tasted a little of his Age; but others assure, That if they had not so much success as those that went before, it proceeds principally for *not having inserted much of Love in 'em*; a Passion that now-a-days touches the Spectators more than *Horror* and *Pity*. They add, That *Corneille* had retrench'd this Passion all he could in his last Works; being convinc'd, by time, that it was in some sort unworthy of the *Buskin*, and that it depreciates almost always the Pieces where it predominates; a Sentiment conformable to that of the best Poets of Antiquity, who seldom put Love into their great Tragedies. He died the 1st of *October* 1684, aged 78 Years.

John Baptiste Poquelin de Moliere.

MOLIERE was born with such an inclination for Comedy, that it was impossible to keep him from turning Player. Scarce had he compleated his Studies, (wherein he made extraordinary progress) but he join'd himself with several young People of the same Age and Taste, and took a resolution of forming a Company to go down into the Provinces to play Comedy. His Father (a good Citizen of *Paris*, and the King's Upholsterer) being troubl'd at the course his Son took, employ'd all the Friends he had, to sollicite him to quit that Thought, promising, if he would return Home, he would buy him any Place he desir'd, provided it did not exceed his Strength.

Neither did the Prayers nor Remonstrances of his Friends, back'd with these Promises, work any thing upon him. The good Man afterwards sent to him the Master he had been put out to Board with in the first Years of his Studies, hoping that by the Authority he had upon him during that time, he might reclaim him to his Duty: But so far was the Master from prevailing with him to quit the Profession he had undertaken, that young *Moliere* persuaded him to embrace the same Trade, and to be the Doctor

180 *Illustrious Men of France,*

of their Comedy, by representing to him, that his small modicum of *Latin* would make him very capable of that Part, and that the Life they should lead would be much pleasanter than that of a Pedagogue.

His Company being form'd, he went and play'd at *Rouen*, and from thence at *Lyon*, where having pleas'd the Prince of *Cony*, who (being then young, and not yet in the Sentiments of Piety, which afterwards induced him to write so solidly and Christianly against Plays) took them for his Servants, and gave 'em Salaries. From thence they came to *Paris*, where they play'd before the King and the whole Court. It is true, they did not succeed the first time; but *Moliere* made a Complement to the King, so sprightly, delicate, and well-turn'd, and play'd so well his Part in the Farce that came after the Play, that he carry'd all the Suffrages, and obtain'd Licence to play at *Paris*. He gave wonderful satisfaction to the Public, especially by the Pieces of his own Composition; which, being of a kind entirely new, brought a great affluence of Spectators.

Till then, there was Wit and Pleasantry in our Comedies; but his Characters were so well mark'd, his Images of the Manners of the Age so lively, and the Air of the whole so genuine, that the Representations seem'd more to be *Reality* than *Fiction*; every one there knew *himself* and his *Neighbour* too, whose Faults one is gladder to see than one's own. They gave a singular Pleasure, and it may be said too, that they were of good use for a great many People.

Moliere

during the Last Century. 181

Moliere observ'd, that the *French* had two very considerable Faults; the one, That almost all the young Fellows had a distaste for the Profession of their Fathers; and that those who were but Citizens, were for living like Gentlemen, and doing nothing; which fails not in a little time to ruine 'em: The other, That the Women had a violent inclination to become, or at least to be thought *Learned*, which does not accord at all with the Spirit of Housewifry, so necessary to preserve the Felicity of Families. He apply'd himself to ridicule these two Vices, which had an effect much beyond every thing that could be hop'd from it. He writ two Plays against the *first* of these Disorders; the one entitul'd, *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, *The Gentleman-Cit*; and the other, *Marquis de Pourceaugneau*. It's highly probable, the young Fellows receiv'd benefit from these Pieces; 'twas perceiv'd at least, that the extravagant *Cavalier-Air* they used to give themselves, abated visibly. Against the *Womens* Fault he also made two Comedies; the one entitul'd, *Les Precieuses Ridicules*; and the other, *Les Femmes Savantes*.

These Comedies were so disgraceful to the Ladies that pretended too much to the *Bel-Esprit*, that the whole Nation of the She-wou'd-be-Wits was extinguish'd in less than a Fortnight, or at least they so well disguis'd themselves in that Particular, that there was no more of 'em to be found, neither at Court, nor in the City; nay, from that time they have guarded more against the repute of *Learned* and *Precise*, than against that of *Gallant* and *Ungovernable*.

He made also two Comedies against *Hypocrites* and the *Faux Devots*, namely, *The Feast*

182 *Illustrious Men of France,*

of *Peter*; a Piece imitated upon an *Italian* one of the same Name, and *Tartuffe* of his own Invention. By this Piece he got some Business upon his Hands, because Applications were made about it to Persons of great Consideration; and also because it was urged, That Virtue and Vice by this means being easily taken one for another, the Ridicule fell almost equally upon both, and gave occasion to laugh at Persons of Piety, and their Remonstrances. However, after some Obstacles which were soon remov'd, he had entire permission to play it publicly.

Paultry Physicians he also attack'd by two Pieces very Comical; whereof the one is, *Médecin Malgre luy*; and the other, *Le Malade Imaginaire*. It may be said, He has forgot himself a little in this last, by not keeping within bounds of the power of Comedy; for instead of contenting himself with finding fault with *Ignorant Pretenders*, he fell upon *Physic* it self, treated the Science as frivolous, and laid it down for a Principle, *That it is ridiculous for a Man to go about to cure another*.

Comedy, 'tis true, always ridicul'd the Captain Hackbums of the Age, and their Rodomontades; but never rally'd those that are truly Brave; it makes merry with Pedants and Pedantry, but never with the Learned, or the Sciences. According to this Rule, he could not treat Quacks and Mountebanks too ill; but he ought to stop there, and not turn his Jest upon good Physicians, whom Scripture it self enjoins us to honour.

However it be, since the time of ancient Poets, *Greek* and *Latin*, whom he equal'd, and perhaps surpass'd in the Comic, no Man hath had so great a Talent, or so much Reputation.

He

during the Last Century. 183

He died the 13th of *February* 1673, aged about 52 or 53 Years.

He *had* united in himself, singly, all the Talents necessary to a Comedian. He was so excellent an Actor for the Comic, (altho' very indifferent at the Serious) that he cannot be imitated, but very imperfectly, by those who have had his Parts since his death. He also understood wonderfully well the Habits of the Actors, in knowing their true Distinction; and was so judicious in giving out the Parts, and afterwards instructing them so perfectly, that they seem'd less to be Actors of a Comedy, than the true Persons they represented.

PHILIP QUINAULT. Of the *French Academy.*

MONSIEUR *Quinault* was one of those happy Heads which succeed in every thing they undertake, and which having receiv'd from Nature a most lively and most distinct Idea of what is Excellent, conform to it with ease, every thing they do, and often without the help of Masters and Precepts. When he left his Studies, he apply'd himself to Poetry, in which he had an extraordinary Gift; and at 15 Years of Age, made very agreeable Comedies. About that time he put himself to a Councillor to learn Business, wherein he soon made himself perfect.

I cannot forbear relating a thing here, of little importance, 'tis true, but it shews the scope and facility of his Wit. The Councillor order'd him to carry one of his Clients, a Gentleman of Parts and Merit, to his * *Rap-*

* *The Judge that reports the Case.*

porteur, to instruct him in the Affair. The Judge not being at Home, nor likely to return before it was very late, Monsieur *Quinault* propos'd to carry the Gentleman to the Play in the mean time, and to place him well upon the Stage. No sooner were they there, but abundance of People of the greatest Quality came and embrac'd

during the Last Century. 185

brac'd Monsieur *Quinault*, with Congratulations upon the Excellence of his Play, which they were come to see, as they said, for the third or fourth time.

The Gentleman astonish'd at what he heard, was much more so when the Play came on, the Pit and Boxes ringing again incessantly with Applauses. How great soever his surprize was, it increas'd infinitely more, when returning to the Judge he heard Monsieur *Quinault* open his Business, not only with incredible Clearness, but with Reasons so evidently demonstrative of Justice on his side, that there was no doubt made of carrying the Cause.

The Comedies of Monsieur *Quinault* were for ten or a dozen Years the Delights of *Paris* and of all *France*, altho' the Critics will have it, that there is not one of 'em wherein the Rules are observ'd; a meer Imagination, that has no grounds but their false Prejudice, *That a young Man who has not dived to the bottom of Aristotle's Art of Poetry, cannot make a good Dramatic Poem.* Opera's coming into fashion in *France*, Monsieur *Quinault* made admirable ones; but they had not at first those unmeasurable Applauses they have since receiv'd. It was attempted to put Monsieur *de Lully* out of conceit with 'em, but that excellent Man had too much Taste, and too much Sense, not to see that it was impossible to make finer Verses, sweeter and more proper for Musick. What charm'd him more, is, that Monsieur *Quinault* had the Talent of making Words to the Dancing-tunes, wherewith he embellish'd his Opera's, which agreed with 'em as well, and often better than if the Words had been made first.

The

186 *Illustrious Men of France,*

The King, being pleas'd to give the Court the Diversion of Opera's, would take no other Author but Monsieur *Quinault*, who continu'd daily to improve in the finest things, *animated as he was with the Honour of serving his Majesty*. His Pieces began *at that time* to take the first place, and to be esteem'd by all the World. But *after his death*, when several very ingenious Men had shewn, that they could not reach the same degree of Perfection, it is incredible to what a pitch his Reputation increas'd. It has not been enough to say, 'That he was an 'excellent Poet in the *Lyrical* of the Stage, and 'that he has not been equal'd in that kind of 'Poetry by any other of the Ancients or Moderns; it has been even said, and that with one Voice, 'That (perhaps) there would *never* come another equal to him.

He was also the Author of a great many other Poems of a different kind, which have been very much esteem'd, and shew the abundance and fineness of his Wit. Of this number is *The Description of the House of Seaux* of Monsieur *Colbert*; a small Poem, but the most ingenious and most agreeable of any made at that time. The Speech he pronounc'd upon his admission to the Academy, and two others he made to the King upon his Conquests at the Head of that Company, have prov'd, that he was no less a *good Orator* than a *good Poet*; above all, when upon the news of Monsieur *de Turenne's* death (which he heard the very Moment he was going to harangue the King) he spoke of it *extempore*, in a manner so just, and so full of Spirit, that it would be difficult to express the surprize of the whole Court upon it. I ought not to forget
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that in the Office of Auditor of Accounts, which he exercis'd for 15 or 16 Years, he perform'd all the Duties of it, with as much exactness, as the most skilful of his Brethren, who had nothing else to mind.

Upon his latter end, he was troubl'd that he had given up his time to the making of Opera's, and took a resolution of making no more Verses, but in the Praises of God, and the great Actions of his Prince. He began with a Poem upon the Destruction of Heresie, whereof take the four first Verses.

*Je n'ai que trop chanté les jeux Et les amours,
Sur un ton plus sublime il faut me faire entendre:
Je vous dis adieu Muse tendre,
Je vous dis adieu pour toujours, &c.*

*Too much, of Love and Sports, I've sung. My Verse
In soaring Strains shall better things rehearse.
No more, my Lyre, the tender Story tell!
Farewel, vain Muse, Eternally Farewel! &c.*

He left two Daughters behind him; the one marry'd to *Monf. le Brun*, Auditor of Accounts, Nephew of the Excellent *Monf. le Brun*, the King's first Painter; and the other to *M. Gaillard*, Councillor of the Court of *Aides*. He died the 26th of November 1688, aged 53 Years.

John de la Fontaine, Of the *French Academy.*

MONSIEUR *de la Fontaine* was born at *Chateau-Thierry* in 1621. His Father, Master of the Waters and Forests of that Dutchy, invested him in his Office as soon as he was capable of Executing it ; but he so little relish'd Business, that 'twas purely in Complaisance he Officiated for many Years. It is true, his Father had full satisfaction upon another thing he requir'd of them, which was his Application to Poetry ; for his Son succeeded therein beyond what he could have wish'd, Tho' the good Man hardly knew any thing in it, yet he lov'd it passionately, and had an incredible Joy, when he saw the first Verses his Son compos'd.

These Verses, as also most of what he has made since, have a taste of the Reading of *Rabelais* and *Marot*, whom he lov'd and esteem'd infinitely. The marvellous Talent Nature gave him, was not inferiour to that of these two Authors, and hath made him produce Works of an incomparable Beauty, wherein there concurs an ingenious Simplicity, a sprightly Honesty, and an original Pleasantry, which never having any thing of *cold*, causes a surprize ever new. These Qualities, *so delicate, so easie to degenerate into bad, and to produce an effect quite contrary*

during the Last Century. 189

trary to that which the Author expects from 'em, have pleas'd every body, the Serious and the Gay, the Cavaliers and Ladies, old Men and Children.

Never did Person merit more to be look'd upon as an Original, and as the First in his kind. He not only *invented* that sort of Poetry, to which he apply'd himself, but he hath *carry'd* it to its utmost perfection; so that he is the first, both for having invented it, and for having so excell'd therein, that no body can ever have but the *second* place in this way of Writing. His good things cost him little, because they flow'd from their Source, and all he had to do, was naturally to express his own Thoughts, and to paint himself. If there's a great deal of Plainness and Honesty in his Works, there was no less in his Life and Manners. He never said any thing, but what he thought; and he never did any thing, but what he had a mind to do. To this he join'd a natural Humility, which has not its example; for he was very Humble without being devout or indeed regular in his Manners, unless upon the latter end of his Life, which was thoroughly Christian. He made little account of himself, he easily suffer'd the ill Humour of his Friends, he said nothing to 'em but what was obliging, and never made himself uneasy, tho' he heard things capable of exciting the Choler and Indignation of the most Moderate. Monsieur *Fouquet*, then Superintendant of the Treasury, gave him a Pension, and always receiv'd his *Person* with great Kindness as well as his *Works*, whereof there are many wherein he hath Prais'd him very ingeniously, and wherein the Charms of his House of *Vaux-le-Vicomte* are describ'd

190 *Illustrious Men of France,*

scrib'd with an admirable Grace. The little care he had of his Domestic Affairs having thrown him into a condition of being obliged to make use of his Friends, *Madam de la Sabliere*, a Lady of singular Merit and great Wit, receiv'd him into her House, where he lived nigh twenty Years. After the death of that Lady, *M. d'Hervart*, who lov'd *M. la Fontaine* extreamly, desir'd him to come live with him, which he did, and at the end of some Years died.

He hath compos'd small *Epic Poems*, wherein the Beauties of the greatest Poetry appear, and would have suffic'd to make him Famous; but he owes his principal Merit and his great Reputation to his *Plain and Natural Poësie*.

His finest Work, and which will live eternally, is his *Collection of the Fables of Esop*, which he has Translated or Paraphras'd. He has join'd to the good Sense of *Esop*, the Ornaments of his own invention, so suitable, so judicious, and so diverting at the same time, that it is difficult to read any thing more *useful* and more *agreeable* all together. He did not *invent* the Fables, but he *chose* them well, and made them almost always better than they were. His Book of *Tales*, which are mostly little Stories in Verse, are of the same force, and one could not make too great esteem of 'em, if there was not too much Licentiousness almost throughout: The Images of Love are *there* so lively, that there are few Readings more dangerous for Youth, tho' nobody ever spoke more *honourably* of things *dishonourable*. I would fain have disguis'd this Circumstance, but the Fault has been too public, and the Repentance he shew'd of it for the two or three last Years of his Life was too sincere,
not

during the Last Century. 191

not to be mention'd. He was of the *French Academy*, and when he signify'd, that he wish'd to be of it, he wrote a Letter to a Prelate of the Company, wherein he express'd both the Sorrow for giving such a loose to his Pen, and his present Resolution of never doing any thing of the like nature again.

He died at *Paris* the 13th of *Febr.* 95, aged 74 Years, with a wonderful Constancy, and every way becoming a Christian.

JOHN

JOHN BAPTISTE LULLY, Master of the King's Music.

THE excellent Man who presents himself here, ought not, being a Native of *Italy*, to find place in this Collection, according to the Law we have impos'd on our selves, *To admit none but French*; but he came into *France* so very Young, and Naturaliz'd himself *there* after such a manner, that he cannot be look'd upon as a Foreigner. Beside, all his Works of Music, and even the Genius that produc'd 'em, having been form'd with us, it ought not to be thought strange if we believe our selves entitul'd to the honour of him.

Upon his arrival in *France*, he devoted himself to *Madmoiselle de Montpensier*; but the King, who has so excellent a Gusto for all fine things, did no sooner hear the *Airs* of his Composition, but he would have him in his Service.

He charg'd him with the care of his *Violins*, for he play'd on that Instrument in a manner which no body ever came near; and his Majesty created a new *Bande* of them for his sake, which are call'd, *Les Petits Violons*; who by his instruction soon equal'd and even surpass'd the *Bande of Twenty Four*, the most celebrated of all *Europe*. It is true, they had the advantage of playing the *Pieces* of *Monfieur de Lully's*
Com-

during the Last Century. 193

Composition, Pieces of a kind quite different from all that had been ever heard till then.

Before him, the Treble only was consider'd in Pieces of the Violin; the Bass and the middle parts were nothing but a simple *Accompaniment* and a gross *Counter-point*, which those who play'd these Parts made most commonly as they heard it, nothing being more easie than to *Vamp* such a Composition. But Monsieur *Lully* has made all the Parts sound almost as agreeably as the Treble; he has introduc'd admirable *Fugues*, and above all, *Movements* quite new, and unknown to all the Masters that went before; he made even Drums and Kettledrums to enter into his Concerts, Instruments which having but one *tone*, seem impossible to contribute any thing to the Beauty of Harmony; but he knew how to give them *Movements* so suitable to the Musick where they came in, which was mostly Warlike and Triumphal, that they touch'd the Heart no less than Instruments the most tuneable.

He knew perfectly well the Rules of his Art; but whereas those who went before him acquir'd Reputation in proportion as they observ'd these Rules in their Works, he distinguish'd himself particularly by *not following them*, and by setting himself above Rules and Precepts. A *false Accord*, a *Dissonance* was a Stumbling block to the most Skillful; but it was from these *Jarrings* which Monsieur *de Lully* has made the finest places of his Compositions, by the Art he had of *preparing 'em*, of *placing 'em*, and *saving 'em*.

194 *Illustrious Men of France,*

The Public is not only under Obligations to him for being the Author of such Music, which for a very long time have been the Delights of *France*, and have pass'd to all Foreigners; but also for giving a new Face to the Art, and making it common and familiar to the whole World. When he came into *France*, there was not half the Musicians that could Sing at sight; the greatest part even of those who Sung before the King, us'd to learn their Parts by Heart before they sung them. Now-a-days, there is scarce any Musician, whether Vocal or Instrumental, but performs off-hand every thing that presents, with as much exactness and clearness, as if they had study'd it several Days. At *that* time a Master was admir'd that knew how to accompany upon a *Thorough-Bass*; *now*, a young Girl who plays the *Harpsichord* or *Theorb* would hardly hear herself commended upon so trivial a thing.

It was scarce ever seen, that those who have excell'd in *Light-Music*, have had the same advantage in *Church-Music*, yet he succeeded perfectly well in *both*; and when the Service of the * *Tenebræ* (of his composing) was solemniz'd, it was no less admir'd than the Performance of his finest *Opera's*, because he had the Art of entering equally well into the Spirit of these different kinds of Music.

This is what induc'd the King to make him Superintendant of his Music, a Place which he

* In the *Roman Church*, the Divine Office which is perform'd about 4 or 5 a Clock in the Evening, on *Maunday-Thurs'day*, *Good-Friday*, &c. to put Christians in mind that about two Hours after *Christ* was Crucifi'd, the whole Earth was cover'd with Darknets, in *Latin*, *Tenebræ*, &c.

sovereignly

during the Last Century. 195

sovereignly merited; and to which was added a short time after, another, *viz.* that of *King's Secretary*.

He died at *Paris* the 22d of *March* 87, in the 54th Year of his Age: He is interr'd in the Church of *Discalceat Augustins*, where he had caus'd a Chapel to be built, and where his Widow has rais'd to him a very fine *Mausoleum*. He left 6 Children, 3 Sons, and 3 Daughters. Nothing is comparable to the Beauty of all the Opera's he has made. As in these Works he has join'd to the strength of Genius of his *own* Nation, the Politeness and Charms of *ours*, *Italy* has hardly any thing she can set against them. It is an inconceivable variety of Modulations and of Movements. They are all of 'em Airs which (without resembling one another) have yet a certain Character of Sweetness and Nobleness which shews their common Original. It is true, he had the good fortune to find a Poet whose Verses were worthy of his Music, and *such* as he could wish to set in their true Light, *all* the Beauties, and *all* the Graces of his Art: But this good fortune was due to him, that there might be nothing wanting to his Works.

FRAN. MANSART, Architect.

FRANCIS *Mansart* was born at *Paris* in 1598. His Father who was an Architect, and whom he lost very young, left him in the Hands of his Brother-in-law, who was of the same Profession, and had the care of teaching him the first Elements of that Art.

The young Disciple had brought with him into the World all the necessary Dispositions for succeeding therein, an exquisite Taste, and a solid profound Mind, *ever searching after something finer than what he saw done by others.* Practice, which he join'd betimes to Study and Reflexions, soon acquir'd him great Ability and great Reputation. His Thoughts were noble and vast for the general design of an Edifice, and his Choice always happy and delicate for the *Profils* (*i. e.* the Geometrical and Orthographical Elevation) of all the Members of Architecture which he made use of.

His Works which have adorn'd *France*, and its Neighbourhood, and even several Provinces, are in so great number, that I shall only relate the principal: The first were the *Portal* of the Church *des Feuillans* of *St. Honorius-street*, the Castle of *Berry*, and the Castle of *Baleroy* in *Normandy*, afterwards that of *Blerancour*, part
of

of *Choisy* upon the *Seine*, and that of *Petitbourg*. The new Castle of *Blois* is entirely of his making, and he did part of the Inside of *Richelieu* and *Coulommiers*. He made all the Outside of the Castle and Gardens of *Gouvres* in *Brie*, and great part of that of *de Fresne*, where there's a Chapel, which is at the same time both the Model of the Church of *Val-de-Grace* at *Paris*, and a Masterpiece of Architecture. The Castle of *Maisons*, where he directed all the Buildings and all the Gard'ning, is of so singular a Beauty, that there are no Foreigners of Curiosity but go to see it, as one of the finest things we have in *France*. The Palace *la Vrilliere*, and that *de Jar*, which he built about the same time, deserve no less to be consider'd for their Beauty and Elegance. The Church of the Nuns of *St. Mary* in *St. Anthony's-street* is his, as also part of the *Hotel de Conty*, and *Bouillon*, and the Portal of the *Minims* of the *Royal Square*, even to the first *Corniche* only. He built several things at the *Hotel de Carnavalet* after a very good manner, especially the Body of the Lodge over the Street, wherein he hath preserv'd the old Gate, and the *Basso-Relievo's*, which adorn it, because he found them very fine; nor had he that malicious Envy of many Architects, which puts them upon pulling down such pieces of Building, whereof the Comparison with theirs may be to their disadvantage. The Church of *Val-de-Grace* was built upon his Design, and by him carry'd on to the top of the great *Corniche* within. When it was there, the Queen-Mother (Foundress of the Convent) was inform'd that this Church, upon the Foot it was begun, could not be compleated without vast Sums of Money,

198 *Illustrious Men of France,*

which would exceed by much what her Majesty had design'd for it. She complain'd of it to Monsieur *Mansart*; and not receiving from his Answers all the Satisfaction she expected, she employ'd other Architects to do what remain'd. It is certainly one of the finest Churches in the World; but there's reason to believe it might have been yet finer, if Monsieur *Mansart* had put his last Hand to it. It would not, perhaps, have been *burthen'd* with so many *Ornaments* of Sculpture, but it might have been ne'ertheless *adorn'd*. Perhaps also, the Dome, however Great and Majestic it is, might have had something more Elegant and more Free, if it had been made entirely upon the Gusto of *Mansart*. We may judge thus much of it by the Beauty of the *Dome des Invalides*, made by M. *Mansart*, now his Majesty's first Surveyor, (the worthy Nephew of him we are mentioning) because he has the same Idea's with his Uncle.

This excellent Man who pleas'd *every body* by his admirable Works, could not please *himself*; there always came to him (in working) Finer Idea's than those he had first fix'd upon; and he often caus'd the same Pieces to be rebuilt two or three times, not being able to stop at any thing fine, when something finer presented to his Imagination. It was this abundance of excellent Thoughts which was the occasion the principal Face of the *Louvre* was not built under his Direction, and upon his Designs: And because Posterity will be amaz'd, that at a time when *Mansart* was in his greatest Reputation, Cavalier *Bernino* should be sent for into *France* for this Work, who assuredly had no advantage of him upon the score of Architecture, I think
my

during the Last Century. 199

my self oblig'd to tell how the thing hap-
pen'd.

Monfieur *Colbert*, before he sent to *Rome* for
Designs of the best *Italian* Masters, sent for
Monfieur *Mansart*, and desir'd him to bring
with him the Draughts he had made for the
Louvre. He tells him, ' He should be very glad
' to see the Front of that Palace built by him,
' not at all doubting but for the service of the
' King in so important a Work, he would do
' something admirable. Monf. *Mansart* open'd
his *Porto-Folio*, and shew'd several Draughts all
very Curious and very Magnificent, but never a
one that was finish'd and fill'd up; there was
every where two or three different Thoughts to
make choice of; one mark'd out with Chalk,
another with Ink, and a third with Red-Oker.
Monfieur *Colbert* confess'd, ' He was extreamly
' satisfy'd with the Beauty and Abundance of all
' these different Idea's; but added, That he
' should conclude upon some of the best, and
' Draw them fair over, and then present them to
' the King for his choice of one of 'em, after
' which there would be nothing more to do but
' to execute it as soon as possible, without any
' alteration. Monfieur *Mansart* answer'd, *That*
he could not tye up his Hands after that manner,
and that he would always preserve to himself the
power of doing better, and thereby make himself
more worthy of the Honour that was done him.
Monfieur *Colbert* reply'd, ' That if the Question
' was only about a Building for himself, he should
' not be displeas'd to see it pull'd down eight or
' ten times successively, provided he could have
' but an Edifice of his Making; but that having
' to do in a Building for the King, and such an

200 *Illustrious Men of France,*

'one as the *Louvre*, He could not, neither ought
'he, to go upon the Conditions which M. *Man-*
'*sart* demanded. They both persisted in their
Resolution, and there the thing hung.

He died in *Sept.* 1666, aged 69 Years. It is he
who invented that sort of Coverture which is
call'd from him *Manfarde*; where by breaking
the Roofs of Houses, the space they take up is
enlarged, and means thereby found for the con-
trivance of very convenient and very agreeable
Lodgings.

NICOLAS

NICOLAS POUSSIN, Painter.

IN them that are born to excel in any Art, or any Science, the Seeds which Nature hath cast into the Soul, shoot forth so early, that the visible marks thereof appear from the first Infancy.

Nicolas Poussin, who came into the World to be one of the best Painters of his Age, made his Talent known as soon as his *Hand* was strong enough to delineate the Images of his *Mind*.

He was born in 1594, at *Andely* in *Normandy*, where there liv'd one *Varin* a Painter, who judging how far such beginnings might go, advis'd his Parents (who were troubl'd to see him amuse himself in Drawing, instead of applying to ordinary Studies) to let him follow his own Inclinations, and help'd him very much with his Counsel and Precepts. So soon as he had attain'd the Age of 18, he came to *Paris*, and after having study'd under different Masters, he made some Journeys in the Country, and particularly to *Blois*, where he painted two Pieces in the Church of the *Capucins*, which are seen with admiration, altho' they taste a little of the weakness of his Age. He made six Pieces in Size-work for the Ceremony of the Canonization of *St. Ignatius* and *St. Francis Xavier* :

202 *Illustrious Men of France,*

vier : And tho' these six Pieces were done in six Days, or little more, they were very much esteem'd, and did him a great deal of Honour. The Cavalier *Marini*, an excellent *Italian* Poet, being at that time in *Paris*, they contracted a Friendship together ; and the pleasure *Poussin* took in representing the finest Thoughts of his Friend, drawn mostly from his Poem of *Adonis*, serv'd not a little to stir up and augment in him the Poetical Genius of Invention, so necessary for Painters.

He went to *Rome*, and arriv'd there in the Spring of the Year 1624. His Works were not esteem'd *there* at first, tho' very Curious, because his manner of Painting was not of the taste which then prevail'd ; it even came to pass, that the Copies which were made of 'em, sold for more than the Originals ; and he receiv'd but 60 Crowns for the Picture of the *Plague*, which the Duke *de Richelieu* has since given 1000 Crowns for. He always carry'd *Tablets* about him, upon which he Drew *en passant* in the Streets, the Postures and Actions which he thought fine and worthy of remark, and the beautiful Pieces of Landtschape, when he was in the Country. He learn'd the Mathematics of Father *Mathew Zoccolini*, and Anatomy, of

* A Wooden Horse
for Painters to place
their Frames on.

Vasale. He apply'd himself particularly to make * *Easel Pieces* of a midling Dimension, wherein the Figures were large enough to shew all the Proportions, and to receive the whole *Detail* of the finest and most delicate Expressions. The number of the excellent Pieces he has done, is almost infinite.

Among

during the Last Century. 203

Among the most Celebrated, are reckon'd, *The Seven Sacraments*, which he painted twice; the first for the Cavalier *del Pozzo*, his intimate Friend; and the second for Monsieur *de Chantelou*, Steward of the King's House hold: Several Events of the History of *Moses*, as, *The Exposing of him upon the Waters of Nile*; *The Manna falling in the Wilderness*; and, *The striking of the Rock*; *Rebecca*; *The Blind of Jerico*; *Deluge*; that of *Pyrrhus*, and several others, which make one of the principal Ornaments of the King's Closet.

Monsieur *Desnoyers*, who esteem'd and lov'd him very much, oblig'd him by pressing Letters he writ to him, and by those he got the King to write to him, to come into *France*, to honour the Surveyorship of the Buildings which his Majesty had at that time conferr'd upon him.

The first Works he was got to do (so soon as he arriv'd) was, the *Altar-Piece* in the Chapel of *St. Germain en Laye*, which is the *Holy Supper*; wherein the Beauty of the Disposition, and particularly the Judgment of the Lights are Second to none in that kind. He made (much about that time) the great Altar-Piece of the *Noviciat* of Jesuits, which is of the same force. He was employ'd to make Designs for the great Gallery of the *Louvre*. It is easie to imagine (what with his Merit and having been set at the Head of all the Works in Painting, and in some manner of Architecture, because there went a great deal of *that* in the Design of the Ceiling of that Gallery) he wanted not Enemies who oppos'd him; but he maintain'd

204 *Illustrious Men of France,*

maintain'd his Design by very good Reasons, shewing, ' That if it was not so Adorn'd, nor ' so loaded with Works, as his Adversaries ' would have it, he did it because of the length ' of that Isle, to the end, that the Sight might ' not be fatigu'd with too great a number of ' different Objects, and that the Work might ' be compleated, and not occasion an unreasonable, and in some sort endless, Expence. He was reproach'd, that in many of his Pictures, there was something of *hard*, of *dry*, and *immovable*, a fault said to proceed from his too great Application to the Studying and Copying the Antique *Basso-Relievos*. Some People have also blam'd him for having given to the Air of *Christ's Head*, (in several of his Pieces) something which looks morelike *Jupiter Thundering*, than the *Saviour of the World*; and, in fine, That being minded to depart too far from the *soft and tender manner*, (which were much in fashion, as those of *Albano*, and *Guido*, to whom he preferr'd the *Dominican* by much, as stronger in the Design and Expressions) he had given a little too much into the *austere and precise manner*. Others pretend, that these Faults are nothing but Beauties a little too great for Eyes which are not accusom'd to 'em. However it be, no body hath ever gone further in the well marking the true Character of his Figures; and above all, for the Beauty, Nobleness, and Nature of his Expressions, which is without contradiction the finest and most touching part of Painting.

He died at *Rome* the 19th of *November* 1665, aged 71 Years and 5 Months.

CHARLES

CHARLES le BRUN, First Painter to the King.

IT WOULD be difficult to go back *early enough* in the Life of this excellent Man, to find a time when he was not a most ingenious Painter. There is seen a Portrait of his Grandfather, a Graver at *Paris*, which he did at ten or a dozen Years of Age, where there's observ'd as much Art and Strength, as in the Works of the best Masters. There is also seen upon a Chimney of the Royal Palace, *A Hercules knocking down the Horses of Diomedes*, which he did at 15 Years of Age, and which puts out of countenance most Pieces of the best Painters.

He study'd under *Simon Vouet*, first Painter to the King, a very able Man in his Profession, whom he equal'd and surpass'd in a little time, *having always had the force to avoid what was less good in the manner of his Master*. Besides the Gift of Painting, (which he had in the highest degree) he had a Spirit pure and penetrating, capable of succeeding in every thing that he took a fancy to.

Monfieur, the Chancellor *Seguier*, touch'd with the good Qualities of this young Painter, sent him to Travel into *Italy*, where he carry'd off almost all the Secrets of his Art, compriz'd in the fine Works that are there. He made there
a par-

206 *Illustrious Men of France,*

a particular Study upon the *Basso Relievo's* Antique, of all the *Habillements*, all the *Arms*, and of all the *Ustensilles* of the Ancients, according to their different Countries, and by a continual Reading of History and Fable, he acquir'd so exact a knowledge of the different Characters of all the Heroes, and of all Men; of their Usages and their Customs, That nobody hath ever represented all sorts of Subjects with more of *Nature* and *Becomingness*, nor better observ'd what the Masters of the Art call *Le Costume*. To be convinc'd of this, a Man need only see the five great *Tableaux* he has done of *The History of Alexander*, and particularly that of the Family of *Darius*, where the *Airs* of the Head speak no less the several Countrys of the Persons there represented, than their *Habillements*, faithfully design'd upon the Antique. These five *Tableaux* are, perhaps, in their kind, the finest in the World, and it may be hoped, (in spite of the Prevention that now reigns for every thing that comes from *Italy*, and the little esteem the *French* make of the Works of *their* Age, and especially of their own Countrymen) That Justice will be done 'em which is their due, when Time shall have added *Beauty* to 'em, and if we may so say, the *Varnish* which it always gives to excellent Paintings.

His greatest Work is the Ceiling of the Gallery of *Verfailles*, wherein the History of the King is represented in an Allegorical manner most ingeniously. He has painted the Arch of the great Stair-case of this same Castle with an admirable Fresco. There are seen the *Muses* employ'd in celebrating the Actions and the Virtues of the same Prince. The Ceiling of this
Stair-

Stair-case is grav'd, as also the five *Tableaux* of *Alexander*: The Prints of 'em are sought after and admir'd by all the World.

The Collection of Prints grav'd after his Works, is the most ample and most numerous that was ever made after the Paintings of any other Painter in the World.

As he had an universal Genius, and the King having a great value for him, and choosing him for his first Painter, he also gave him the Superintendancy of all the Manufactures at the * *Gobelins*; it may be said, That every thing which is done in the Manufactures of that House, Tapestry, Cabinets, Works of Goldsmithry, Inlaid-work, hold of *him* all that they have of Curious and Elegant, the whole having been wrought upon his Designs, under his Eyes, and under his Direction; as also, most of the Works in Painting and Sculpture which were done in his time at *Versailles*, and other Royal Houses. It is upon his Designs painted in great by his best Disciples, that the *Tapestries of the History of the King* were done, as also those of the *Elements* and the *four Seasons of the Year*.

This extent of Genius is a thing difficult to be conceiv'd, and never enough to be admir'd. I speak not at all of the *Easel-Pieces*, and several others he has done for the Churches of *St. Sulpicius*, the *Carmelites*, and many more, because they are too numerous, and are also open to the view of all the World. He govern'd the

* A Work-house at *Paris*, where all the King's Artisans are at work, call'd so from One *Gobelin*, famous for working and dying of Cloth, which at first was the only business of the Place.

208 *Illustrious Men of France,*

Manufacture of the *Gobelins*, and all those who Work'd there, *like a Father of a Family*, almost always employ'd in giving them Work, and in correcting it, or in soliciting their Affairs with the Magistrates, by whom he was highly honour'd, and always well receiv'd.

He has left two admirable Treatises ; one of *Physiognomy*, and the other of the *different Characters of the Passions*. He does not content himself with explaining by Discourse the different Effects each Passion expresses in the Visage; he has Drawn 'em in Great with his own Hand, in several different fashions. The First *Crayon* only marks out the first Characteristic Out-lines of each Passion, without Lights or Shades : The Second marks it out *more* by the additional touches of small Circumstances : And the Third (with all the necessary Lights and Shades) leaves nothing wanting to the perfect Expression of the Passion. He has join'd thereto, the Figures of most Animals, which have something of what is found in the Physiognomy of Man ; which serves to know their Natural Inclination, with reference to that of those same Animals.

He had undertaken a great Work, which was, To Paint all the principal Actions of the Life of *Jesus Christ*, in *Easel-Pieces*, six or seven Foot long, and four Foot and an half deep. There are four of 'em to which he put his last Hand, and are surprizingly Beautiful : They are, *The Carrying of the Cross*, *The Elevation of it*, *The Entry into Jerusalem*, and *The Nativity*. At the time he was seiz'd with the Sickness which carry'd him off, he was upon a Piece Of *the Holy Supper*, which would have been (if one may judge from the Studies he had made upon

during the Last Century. 209

upon the Manner of the *Jews* celebrating the Passover) yet finer and more curious than all the others.

He died at the *Gobelins* the 12th of *February* 1690, and was bury'd at *St. Nicolas du Chardonnet*, where his Widow erected to him a very magnificent Tomb: *That* of his Mother, which is of his Design, and an Altar-Piece representing *Saint Charles Borromeus in the fervour of Prayer*, Painted by himself, make, with his Mausoleum, one of the most beautiful Chapels in *Paris*.

P

EUSTACHE

EUSTACHE le SUEUR,
Painter.

IT may be said of this excellent Painter, That he only wanted *one* thing, which was, *To live a longer time*; for if he had continu'd in perfecting himself in Painting proportionably to what he did to the 28th Year of his Age, (when he died) he would have surpass'd, or at least equal'd all the greatest Painters that ever came into the World. This Destiny he shar'd with *Raphael*, who died also about the same Age.

He was of the *Academy Royal of Painting and Sculpture*, at the first Establishment of it. He study'd under *Vouet*, as did all the young Painters of his time; and whereas Disciples all make themselves esteem'd in proportion as they *well imitate* their Master; This Man, as also Monsieur *le Brun*, and some few more, who had a superiority of Genius, has made himself Considerable, for having *quitted betimes the manner of his Master*; because that, altho' *Vouet* was a very great Master, *le Sueur* had a *Goust* abundantly more exquisite and more delicate. The first Work of consequence that he undertook, was, *The Life of St. Bruno*, which he painted in the Cloyster of the *Chartreux* of *Paris* in twenty two *Tableaux* of admirable Beauty; some whereof by an incredible Malice, of which the Authors

during the Last Century. 211

thors could never be discover'd, have been spoil'd considerably in places where was the most noble and lively Expressions. He did all this Work in three Years. It is hard to comprehend, when one considers with what Care and what Study all the Pieces are painted, how he could accomplish it in so little time; yet (*however fine they be*) it must be agreed, that those he has done *since* in divers places, are much finer, with respect to *Correctness* and *Strength of Colour*. One of the best is, *that* he did to be plac'd at *Notre Dame* in the Year 1650, it being an ancient custom observ'd by the Goldsmiths, to present *one* there Yearly on the first Day of *May*.

St. Paul is represented Preaching in the City of *Ephesus*, and Converting the *Gentiles*, who bring their Books of Prophane Sciences to be burnt.

He has done *A Christ dying*, for the *Capucins* of *St. Honorius-street*; *A Magdalen*, and another of the *Martyrdom of St. Lawrence*, for the Church of *St. Germain de l'Auxerrois*, and some Pieces of *The History of S. Martin*, for the Monks of *Marmoutier*. He did, towards the end of his Life, two Pieces of *The History of St. Gervais* and *St. Protais*, to be Copy'd (as they have been) in the Tapestrys that are seen at *St. Gervais*: These are extraordinary Beautiful.

What was most remarkable in *le Sueur*, is, That there was nothing of *Affectation* in his Manner. It is the *Beautiful Nature* taken after the Idea of *fine*, which he represented in as many different fashions, as the difference of Subjects requir'd; not having any Actions, any Postures, any manner of Grouping, Disposition,

212 *Illustrious Men of France,*

Drapery, or Colouring, which were more than ordinary common with him; a certain mark of the strength and facility of a Genius, which not tying it self up to any thing he *saw*, or even *did*, fancies to it self the Objects according as the Probability of his History demands; painting what he sees in his *Idea*, when he works by *Invention*; as he paints what he sees *without him*, when he works after *Nature*. His good *Taste* made him take (in the study of Figures, and *Basso-Relievo's* Antique) what they have of *Great, Noble, Majestic*, without imitating what they may have of *Dry, Hard* and *Immovable*, and caus'd him to draw from *Modern Works* what they have of *Graceful, Natural*, and *Easie*, without falling into the *Weak* and *Penurious*, which they are accus'd of.

Some People have urged, *That he should have gone to Rome*; but there's nothing in his Works that can give 'em occasion to talk after this manner; his Paintings having all the *Bon Gusto* and all the *Nobleness* which may be had in *Italy*. It was a long time true, *That Rome ought to be visited, and to study there a considerable time, to succeed in Painting and Sculpture*. But this Maxim begins to be no more true *now*, since there hath been transported into *France* many of the finest Paintings, and most beautiful Statues which used to occasion the going to *Italy*; because, if we have not the Figures in *Original*, they are at least very well *Moulded*, which suffices to take the *Taste* and *Manner* of 'em. There are none now that will contend for this Maxim, but those who know little in these sort of things, and yet would pass for Judges; for, it is much easier to know
if

during the Last Century. 213

if an Artift *has* been at *Rome*, or *has not*, than to know if his Work be Excellent, or Indifferent. It is not disallow'd, but that it may be very good for a Painter to travel into *Italy*, to form his taste upon the curious Works that abound there; but the instance of him I'm speaking of, makes it demonstrable, That this Condition is not of absolute necessity to make an able Man in this fine Art.

He died in *May* 1655, aged 38 Years, and is bury'd in the Church of *St. Stephen du Mont*.

BLAISE PASCAL,

BLAISE *Paschal*, Son of *Stephen Pascal*, President in the Court of *Aydes* at *Clermont* in *Livvergne*, and of *Antoinette Begon*, was born at *Clermont* the 15th of *June* 1623. His Father, who had but this Son, could not resolve to trust his Education to any body but himself; so that the Person I speak of never was in any College, and never had other Master than his Father, who came to *Paris* for nothing but to attend this Task, a thing which would have been impossible for him in the Country, where the exercise of his Office and the visits of his Friends would have been too great an hindrence to him. His principal Maxim in this Education, was, *To keep his Son ever above his Work*; that is to say, not to make him study upon any thing *whatever*, which he could not comprehend easily. For this purpose, he would not begin to teach him *Latin* till he was 12 Years old, and that after he had fill'd his Mind with a great deal of other Learning less difficult.

About this time the *Love of Truth* (which was ever the predominant Passion of *M. Pascal*) gave him so great a desire to learn the *Mathematics*, that he apply'd himself thereunto of his own motion, notwithstanding the prohibition of his Father, who desir'd that he should give himself up entirely to the study of the *Greek* and *Latin*

during the Last Century. 215

Latin Tongues, fearing lest the charms he should find in the Mathematics would turn him from the other. However, *alone and young as he was*, he drove his Enquiries so far, that he got to the 32d Proposition of *Euclid*, upon the Demonstration whereof his Father surpriz'd him, one Day, not without an extream Joy, to see the amazing progress his Son had made in this Science, without the help of any other Book, or any Master.

At the Age of 16, he made *A Treatise of Conic Sections*, which pass'd for so great an effort of Brain, that it was said, *Since Archimedes there had been nothing seen of that force*. As he never heeded Fame, he would not have it printed, notwithstanding the instances of his Father's Friends, who wish'd it with eagerness, both for the Beauty of the Work, and for the Circumstance of the Author's Age, which made it so much the more meritorious.

At 19, he invented, and caus'd to be made under his own Eyes, that admirable Machine of Arithmetic, by which are made all sorts of Computations not only without a Pen, and without Counters, but without knowing any Rule of Arithmetic, and without any fear of being mistaken. He was two Years in bringing it to the perfection he left it in; but this length of time came not from the trouble he had to *invent* the Movements, but from the difficulty he found in making them *well understood* by the Workmen. He afterwards apply'd himself to divers Experiments of Physic, and particularly to those whereby is known the different Weight of the Air, according as it is more or less remote from the Earth, and which also proves that this

216 *Illustrious Men of France,*

Weight of the Air is the cause of all the Efforts that had been attributed to the *Horror* Nature is made to have for a *Vacuum*.

These Experiments have purged Philosophy of that gross Error, and have help'd very much to the knowledge of things Natural, and in the *Mecanics*; above all with relation to Pumps, which act by attraction.

Providence having sprung an occasion that obliged him to read Books and Writings of Piety, God so enlighten'd him therewith, and made him see so clearly *He* ought to be the sole Object of all his Enquiries, that from that Moment he abandon'd all others, and gave himself wholly to the *one thing*, which *Jesus Christ* calls *Necessary*.

It is not very strange, that a Man who had so great an *Ouverture* for all the *Noble Learning*, and who hath invented so many curious Things, should have so much Exactness in his Thoughts; but it is extraordinary, that he hath written with a Politeness and a Purity which could but rarely be equal'd, even by those whose Talent and principal Application lies in the *election and disposition of Words*. This is what may be seen in the *Collection of his Thoughts*, which have been regarded by the whole World as a Prodigy of Knowledge, of Penetration, and of good Sense; but particularly, in a certain Work that he made upon occasion of a Dispute happening in *Sorbonne*. It passes for apparent among all Persons who have any taste, that few things come near it among the Writings of the Ancients in point of Dialogue: It is also true, that every thing *there* is pure in the Language,
noble

during the Last Century. 217

noble in the Thoughts, solid in the Argument, fine in the Rallery, and agreeable throughout, so as hardly to be found elsewhere. This Work hath been translated into all Languages, and Reprinted so many times, that it is difficult to reckon the Editions; yet it was unknown all his life-time who was the Author of it.

His Piety and his Charity have been no less surprizing than the Ligths of his Mind: God by a particular Protection preserv'd him from all the Vices of Youth; and what is no less astonishing for a Mind of his Make and Character, from all thought of Libertinism upon Matters of Religion, his Curiosity being always confin'd to things Natural. He own'd to have the Obligation of it to the Example and Instructions of his Father, who had given for a Maxim, **THAT WHAT IS THE OBJECT OF FAITH, COULD NOT BE SUCH OF REASON**; so that the same Spirit which *penetrated* so far into all the *Secrets of Nature*, was *submitted* without any reserve to all the *Mysteries of Religion*.

This Simplicity reign'd in him all his Life, and caus'd him particularly to apply to the knowledge and practice of Christian Morality. He had also two other Qualities not less singular in a Soul like his, *Patience*, and a *general Renunciation of all sorts of Pleasures*. His frequent Indispositions, or rather his continual Illness for the last four Years of his Life, were a long proof of his Patience. He could not swallow any thing Liquid, unless hot, and drop by drop; he was at the same time oblig'd, by order of the Physicians, to take Physic every other Day; which he did, without ever complaining, or shewing

218 *Illustrious Men of France,*

ing the least sign of Impatience. If one would examine all the Circumstances of his Life, it would be agreed, that he was admirable in *many things*: His Application to polite Learning, the Delicateness of his Constitution, and above all, the Austerities he practis'd during the last Years of his Life, very much shorten'd his Days.

He died aged 39 Years. He is bury'd at *Paris*, in the Church of *St, Stephen du Mont*.

ACHILLES

ACHILLES de HARLAY,
First President in the Par-
liament of *Paris*.

ACHILLES de Harlay, eldest Son of Christopher de Harlay, President in the Parliament of *Paris*, was born the 7th of March 1550; with all the advantages which Nature can give to those she loves. The House of Harlay is very Noble and very Ancient, some hold its Original of *England*, others of *Franche-Comté*, where (they say) it has taken its Name from the Town of Harlay, the first Barony of that Country, which hath been a long time in their Family, and pass'd afterwards into that of Chabot and Nassau.

Francis de Harlay, Son of Philibert, was the first who came to settle in *France*. He lived under the Reign of Charles VI. and Charles VII. He was Councillor and Chamberlain to the King, and left by Louisa Berbisi, his Wife, Nicolas, call'd Colinet de Harlay, Sieur de Grandvilliers and Nogent, and Francis, Monk of St. Benigne in *Dijon*. Nicolas was Councillor to King Charles VI. and one of the Stewards of his Household in ordinary. He had John de Harlay, Sieur de Grandvilliers, Nogent and Celi, who figur'd himself in the Wars against the English; and

220 *Illustrious Men of France,*

and merited the Order of Knighthood, which he receiv'd of *John Duke of Burgundy*.

King *Louis XI.* made use of him in several very important Occasions. He marry'd *Louisa Lullier*, by whom he had several Children, who made several Branches, and among others, *Christopher de Harlay*, President in the Parliament of *Paris*, Father of *Achilles de Harlay*, whose Elogium we make.

Achilles de Harlay had a Spirit lively, penetrating, and superiour to all the Sciences which could be taught him; so that he was receiv'd Councillor in Parliament at 22 Years of Age. At 36, he was made President in the room of his Father, who died the same Year; and the first President, *Christopher de Thou*, his Father-in-law, deceas'd some time after, *K. Henry III.* gave him his Place, and set him at the Head of the first Parliament of France.

It was there he had an opportunity of exercising all the Virtues wherewith Heaven had so liberally endow'd him.

His Justice, regular and exact, reviv'd that of the whole Body; and his incomparable Zeal for the Service of his Prince, and of his Country, shone in an infinite number of Occasions, which the misfortune and difficulty of the Times gave birth to. The Day of the *Barri-cades*, when all the force of the Rebellion bent it self against him, neither the *Menaces* of the *Nobles*, nor the *Insolence* of the *People*, could shake his Constancy.

He always abhor'd the Extravagancies of those, who under the *Veil of Religion*, violated the Respect and Obedience they owe to Royal Authority,

during the Last Century. 221

Authority, against the exprefs command of that very Religion.

He courageously declar'd to the Heads of the League, THAT HIS SOUL WAS TO GOD, HIS HEART FOR THE KING, AND HIS BODY ONLY IN THE POWER OF THE REBELS.

Under the Reign of *Henry IV.* he apply'd himself strongly to re-establish the Laws, and to cause Justice to flourish again.

When he saw himself in an Age which requir'd Repose, he resign'd his Office of first President into the Hands of *Nicholas de Verdun*, and died some time after, viz. the 25th of *October* 1616, aged 80 Years.

Whatever Fame has accrued to the long-illustrious Family of the *Harlays*, from the Virtues and glorious Actions of this great Man, it is no less obliged for its Renown to those of the same Family who came after him. It is not long since we lost an Archbishop, who for his great Qualities was the admiration of all the Orders of the Kingdom: But we have the happiness of seeing at the Head of the first Parliament of *France*, the Grandson and Heir of the Name, and of all the Virtues of him we mention, who (inspir'd with the same Zeal for Justice) has freed it from all the Chicanries and all the Delays, which often are as mischievous as injustice it self; his perfect Integrity spreads it self throughout the whole Body, and the the strict Discipline he causes to be observ'd even amongst the least Officers of this Court, abolishes every thing that's burthenome and inconvenient in Prosecutions at Law.

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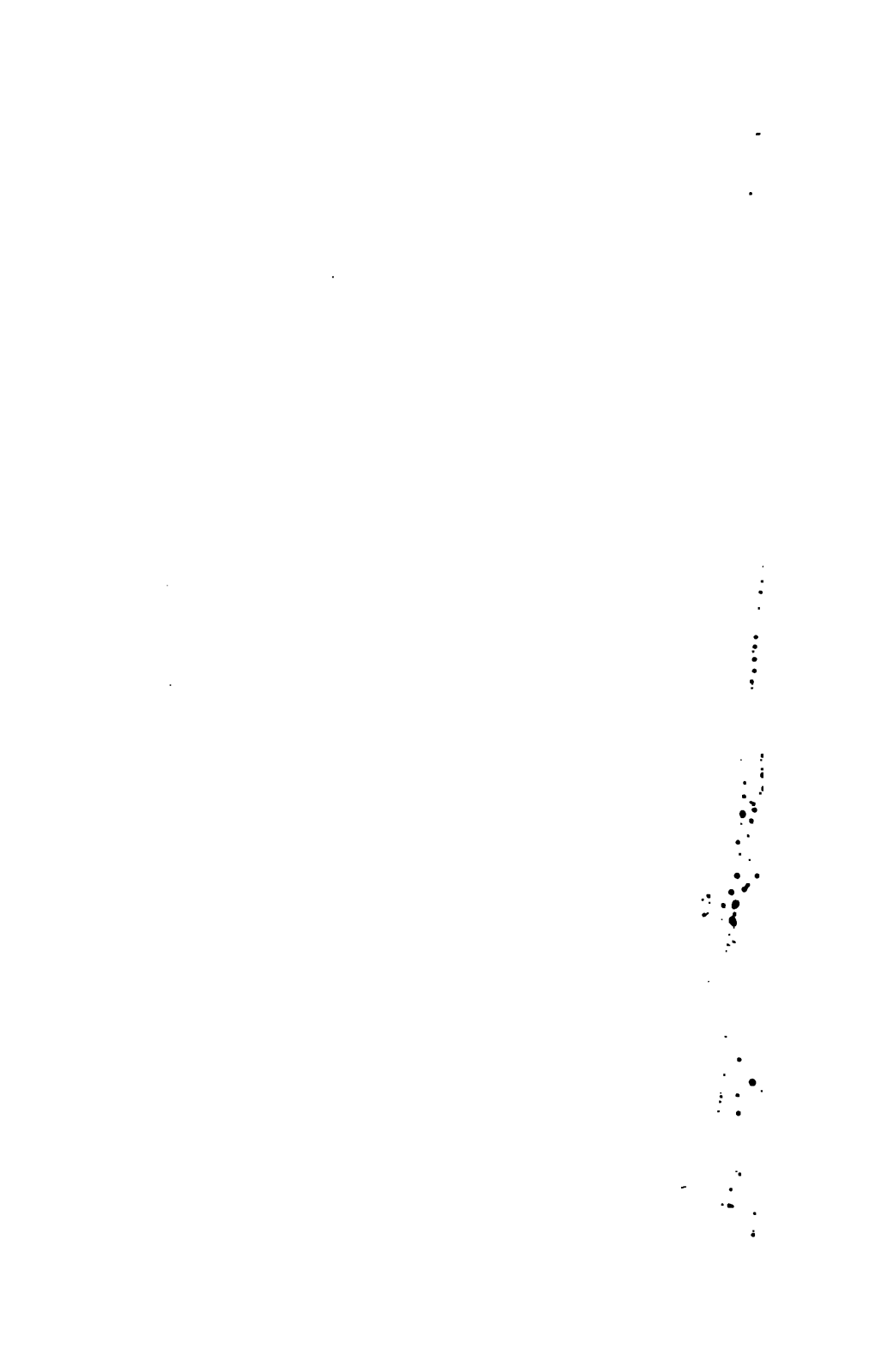
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